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The Indian Review

Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 43]

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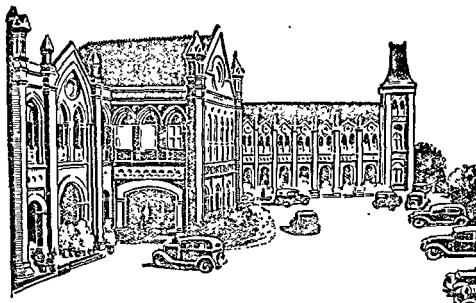
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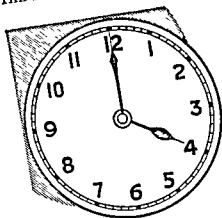
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THE ILLUSION OF FEDERATION

BY DR. A. BERRIEDALE KEITH

AT the close of the Great War, and even during the course, there developed in Britain, and to a less degree in the Dominions and India, a movement in favour of Imperial Federation. It was largely due to the initiative of the men who had worked for the union of South Africa, and to the financial aid of supporters of that movement. Its most important argument was based on the fact that Britain had involved the Dominions and India in war without giving the peoples of these territories any opportunity of controlling the policy which led to war. This position, it was stressed, was humiliating, and it must never be allowed to occur again. So far as concerned the Dominions, it must be avoided by giving them a share in foreign policy, and this could be secured only by creating a federal government, charged with foreign affairs and defence as a minimum. This Government must rest on a federal Parliament of the usual type.

The obvious weakness of this argument was that the share in deciding foreign policy which the people of the Dominions would have obtained would have been almost negligible, for the population of the Dominions was so much smaller than that of the United Kingdom that the views of the people of the latter must always have prevailed. It was naturally felt in the Dominions that they would achieve much more real authority in foreign affairs by retaining their autonomy, and the right to hold aloof from British commitments. The League of Nations afforded, it seemed, an admirable solution of all difficulties; through membership therein, uniformity of vital policy could be

achieved without loss of autonomy, and indeed the solution for a long time served well enough and would very probably have continued so to serve if the League had functioned as it was planned to do. But the failure of the League to live up to its principles, seen above all in the abandonment of Ethiopia to Italy in 1936, proved that the attempt to keep the Dominions and Britain in agreement on foreign policy through the League must fail. South Africa dissented vehemently from the fatal step, which led inevitably to the present war, and all the Dominions then relapsed into an attitude of isolation, seeking to ignore European affairs, as if they could thus avoid implication therein. Their attitude encouraged the British Government in their deplorably foolish policy of appeasement. But Britain's eyes were opened by the fate of Prague, and Mr. Chamberlain did not wait for Dominion assent to accomplish the revolutionary change of British policy announced on March 17, 1939, two days after the destruction of Czechoslovak independence, under which Britain deliberately challenged Herr Hitler's policy of aggression.

The Dominions had no power to challenge British policy, and when that led to war on September 3, 1939, they could not avoid accepting implication in the war. It is true that on one view they might have remained neutral, as did Eire, which, however, had obtained in 1938 full power to do so, which no other Dominion had formally won. But common sense compelled them to follow the British lead; no sane judgment could hold that their

neutrality would have been respected a moment after Britain had been defeated, and a Germany which could conquer Britain would be invincible. In Canada, Australia, and New Zealand parliaments and people alike have approved in overwhelming strength the British stand, and even in South Africa, though less decisively, the same cause has prevailed, and from it no less than from the other Dominions great forces have come to join the fight for freedom.

It would seem *a priori* that the system of free association had proved itself adequate for the needs of the Common wealth, and a powerful argument to this effect is afforded by the case of India. So long as it was possible to treat India as a dependency, which would be represented in a federation by Britain, the project of a federal Parliament might be made plausible. Now, when India has been promised Dominion Status, that idea cannot be pressed and, on the other hand, a federal Parliament, in the lower house of which the units were represented by elected members in proportion to their populations, would be ill-fitted to deal with European affairs, in which Britain must always be vitally involved. The maintenance of autonomy for the units, of course, need not rule out arrangements for closer consultation on foreign affairs and on planning measures of defence.

But against this view it has been strongly argued by Mr. Streit and others, with the approval of the late Lord Lothian, that the trials of the world are due to national sovereignties, so that the remedy is to federate as many states as possible and thus to create a federation, in whose borders war will be impossible and which will be so powerful as to deter other states from attacking it. The federation must control foreign affairs and defence, but also at least tariffs and migration between the units; it must be able to raise the necessary revenues directly from the peoples of the units who would share a common citizenship. Currency would fall under federal control, probably shipping, and perhaps other heads such as economic planning and finance. The details of the schemes vary, and, though much energy has been

employed in propaganda for federalism, it is noteworthy that no British or Dominion statesman has cared to pledge himself to such a solution. Mr. Churchill *did*, indeed, in the crisis of June 16, 1940, try to prevent the treachery of France by offering union with that country, but the terms of the offer were utterly vague; they were the outcome of a war emergency rather than the expression of a practical policy, and Mr. Churchill has evinced no desire to revert to the offer.

The enormous difficulties of forming a federation are in general so well understood that the more practical statesmen suggest that federation should be confined in the first instance to groups of states naturally closely linked together; for example, Poland and Czechoslovakia clearly tend to come together, recognising the grave injury their past strife has caused them and Europe, and the Scandinavian powers have had bitter opportunity to realise how worthless is their alleged independence as individual units. A Central European and a Balkan federation are also possibilities. But, of course, these ideas have practically no value in the eyes of the advocates of Federal Union, some of whom have devised paper constitutions for a European federation wherein a repentant Germany would hold almost a dominating place. Such ideas undoubtedly are wholly removed from reality and sane judgment.

In recognition of the fatality of such constructions, Mr. Cartis, the protagonist of the federal ideal during the Great War, has presented an alternative plan. It has the merit that it recognises the strength of the desire in states for autonomy. Thus it would leave to the units all their functions save those of foreign policy and defence; they would remain free to bar entrance to immigrants and to build up tariff barriers. It is, indeed, contended that the creation of such barriers is in part due to fear of war, but there is no evidence to substantiate this assertion. The high protection policy of the Dominions did not originate in, and has not really depended on, desire to make them self-sufficient in war, and it would persist if war had not to be feared at all. But the federation would be bound to protect

a unit, however provocative its fiscal policy. In like manner it would have to maintain the right of a unit to regulate immigration, refusing it to natives of some units, while allowing it to others, and withholding from races which it did not like the opportunity to make fertile lands which its own population cannot cultivate.

These instances show, clearly enough, how impossible would be a federation of this type, in which a clear-cut division would be made between foreign policy and defence and essential economic and population issues. No federal Parliament nor Government could intelligently deal with foreign affairs on the basis that it had no voice in matters of economic policy, finance, or migration. On the other hand, the federal Parliament would have the power, in Mr. Curtis's scheme, to fix the amounts to be spent on these issues and, on the basis of taxable capacity, decided at five years' intervals by competent experts, to determine the amount due from each unit. That unit could then determine how to raise the sums due, but it would have no power to protest against federal policy which, by demanding huge sums for defence, might gravely hamper internal development. Moreover, the federation by imposing compulsory service for defence might interfere gravely with local planning of the use of man power.

The suggestion that a beginning of a wider federation should be made by the creation of a federation of this limited kind by Britain and the Dominions, or some of them, seems utterly fantastic. To ask the Dominions to surrender the issues of foreign policy and defence to a federation whose capital would be in London, and whose lower house would be predominantly British in outlook and primarily concerned with Europe, would be useless. Mr. Curtis endeavours to meet this devastating consideration by the suggestion that voting would not go by countries; British and Australian Labour members would unite against British and Australian Conservatives. Canada and the Union, if they joined, would, however, create an anti-Labour bloc, and apart from that consideration, no British member, whatever his domestic policy,

could forget Europe, and no Australian the Pacific. Nor can we conceive either Canada or Australia accepting conscription for overseas service from a federal authority.

We must, therefore, rule out any idea of federation with the Dominions; federation with India Mr. Curtis does not press. But there remains the suggestion that a beginning might be made with a federation between Britain, Scandinavia, and the Low Countries. In their case no doubt pressure could be brought to bear on them to accept federation. They could be told that they could not be promised protection from Germany unless they accepted this status, whereas a federation would be able to assure them against German attack. It is true that Britain cannot again accept the absurd position of pledging aid to Belgium without reciprocity or arrangements for co-ordination of plans of defence; the disastrous consequences of such action were apparent in 1940. Nor can we allow Norway and Holland to assert a neutrality which neither could defend. But there is no reason why these powers should not enter into effective pacts for common defence, without attempting to take part in a federation wherein their members would have only a nominal voice.

It is needless to develop the argument. The idea of the United States forming a federation with Britain is probably equally repugnant to the great majority of both peoples, while they would readily accept a close alliance. With France, if and when restored to sanity, such an alliance would be possible, but the gravity of the decline of democratic spirit in France and the totalitarian ideas of large numbers of the people would render any form of federation most dangerous to Britain. Nor would British opinion accept federation with Russia, which would mean the extinction of the present form of British social economy, for it is impossible to conceive of Russia as content to enter any federation which could not deal with economic principles.

But, supporters of federation urge, do we not need security, and is it attainable by

any other means than federation, which alone can destroy the risk to peace inherent in national sovereignties? The answer is that, while most civilised men desire peace, there are very different ways of regarding that ideal. Herr Hitler is ready to welcome peace, provided it rests on the domination of a master-people over auxiliary peoples, who accept German superiority and are ready to render themselves subservient to German needs. But the security which British people desire is security with liberty and equality, peace in a world wherein peoples can evolve their capacities without exploitation by others. No doubt the ideal is difficult of achievement, but Dominion status and the gradual advance of Ceylon to autonomy show that it is not a mere ideal.

To preserve security without safeguarding liberty is doubtless hard. If the Dominions were convinced that it could be achieved only by entering a federation, they would, it is probable, accept a federation. But there has been adduced so far no argument to prove the necessity of such action; indeed the case for free co-operation is admittedly strong, and it is in no way incompatible with the improvement of methods of achieving that co-operation alike in foreign relations and defence. The present war has proved clearly how easy it is for armies to work together no less than fleets and air forces. With the minor powers of western Europe co-operation in an alliance against aggression seems equally practicable. For security in the east such an alliance with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, and Russia is equally to be sought.

These alliances are necessary, because, of the many erroneous ideas current, none is more false than the suggestion that the Nazi regime is alien to the German spirit, or the belief of men like Dr. Jennings, that after a defeat of Herr Hitler's domination, Germany will emerge as a pacific power, ready to work a federal system with the same competence as she showed in war. This is to misread the obvious lessons of history, and is a delusion based on ignoring the German belief that strength is goodness, aggression the essential virtue, and war the noblest of occupations. This

conception has struck too deep roots in the German mind to be eradicated even by complete defeat in this war; Germany has in fact showed an amazing strength and singleness of purpose though for evil aims, and that her spirit of aggression will soon revive is beyond serious question. The one way to prevent it once more involving the world in war is the application of disarmament, as declared in point 8 of the Atlantic Charter, which has now received the adherence of the allied powers, including Russia; nothing could be more disastrous to liberty than the inclusion of Germans in a Federal army.

Doubtless these conclusions will give scant comfort to those who like to believe that from this war abiding peace will emerge to compensate for so much human suffering and destruction. But in human affairs it is best to look facts in the face, and to recognise that the world has far to go before it can be ruled by reason.

For India none of the authors of federal schemes make any acceptable provision, nor can they do so. The destiny of India plainly lies along the line of acquisition of full autonomy in alliance with Britain and the Dominions. There is no room for an India which was not allied to a great power, and the only such power which would allow her all the right of full self-development is Britain at present and for such time as we can reasonably foresee; nothing abides for ever, and planning for perpetual peace is the idlest of diversions.

The federal obsession is largely motivated by failure to study history. The Swiss federation is the outcome of historical conditions of a unique type and is of minimal aid in planning a European federation. The federation of the United States was the coming together of colonies which had acknowledged a common Crown and had shared like institutions and the same speech. Between the units which federated in 1787, and the units which would make up the federations now offered for our acceptance, the distance is too great to render it possible to argue from the success, despite grave trials, of the United States of America to a like outcome for the United States of Europe.

The Failure of Communal Representation

BY PROF. SRI RAM SHARMA

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WHEN in 1908, Lord Minto promised the Muslims in India separate representation, he did so with a view to keep the British hold on India as long as possible. Today, Mr. Amery is using the separatist tendencies born of the communal representation for postponing the day when the destinies of India would no longer be controlled by Britain. To this extent at least the communal representation may be said to have fulfilled the purpose of its author.

But till 1916, the communal representation was always about to be repudiated by nationalist India as destroying the concept of India as a nation. Many Muslim politicians opposed it on principle, some even vehemently attacked its application to Muslims in India. The Indian National Congress, representing the vocal political opinion in India, never reconciled itself to the introduction of this virus in the Indian body politic. Most Indian politicians realised that the claim to the government of their own country could only be made on behalf of the Indian nation. Communal representation not only denied the existence of an Indian nation, but actively worked against the consummation of such an ideal. It was, therefore, attacked as an instrument of British imperialism.

Then came the Great War for making democracy safe in the world. Naturally, Indians now actively claimed for the first time, not this high appointment or that, but the control of their country's government. Afraid that the War might come to an early end, the Indian politicians hastened to come to terms with Muslim communalists and adopted the Congress-League scheme of reforms in 1916. It included communal representation in the legislatures as a temporary expedient (it was said) to nurse the nationalist tendencies among the Muslims, so that they should grow up to a man's stature in course of time. Even the rankest communalist in the ranks of the Muslim League was a bit apologetic when he made the demand for communal representation as an institution

in a self-governing India. It was no longer possible, as it had been in 1908, for them to pose as the saviours of British imperialism in India and therefore entitled to a preferential treatment at the hand of the British rulers of India. Now that a demand for transfer of authority from the British to Indian hands was being made, such a claim was absurd. The existence of a nation, even though nascent, had to be conceded by the Muslim politicians and as communal representation negated it, it had to be openly described only as a temporary measure.

The Indian politicians in evolving the Congress-League scheme had timidly tried to tinker with the existing institutions intended to bolster up British authority in India. Mr. Montague boldly scrapped it all and tried to set up parliamentary institutions in India. But communal representation in the legislatures had been blessed by the Congress and the League alike; it was now taken over into the new structure. Not only that, though Mr. Montague seemed to dislike it, its field of operations was still more extended to include not only many other religious communities but some minor groups within the same religious community as well. When the newly elected legislatures came into power, communal representation in the legislature resulted in the selection of ministers on account of communal considerations. This in its turn led to the introduction of communal representation in public services and local bodies in several provinces. Its extension pandered to the communal instincts of some of the ministers and probably appeared to the Governors—many of whom were opposed to the introduction of democratic institutions in India—a suitable safeguard against the extension of democracy to India. Then came the Government of India Act, 1935. Now from an apologetic concession to a single community, communal representation was raised to the status of a vital part of the constitution. It overshadowed every part of the constitution; the duties of the Governors

were defined in its terms, the formation of the cabinets was subject to its operation, the appointment to almost every important public office was to be governed by communal consideration operating through the discretion of the Governors. Thus communal representation became the one all-embracing principle of the Indian constitution.

But almost a quarter of a century of its working has amply demonstrated its failure both as an instrument of appeasement and a machinery for creating national sentiment in the country. From the nebulous concept of an Indian nation that we had in 1905, we have to day travelled far away into the domain of two 'nations' if not more. Those whom it was intended to appease are today vehemently proclaiming its uselessness. Weightage to minorities in the legislature (say the representatives of the minorities) has not prevented the passage of legislative measures which the minorities claim to be inimical to their interest. The presence of ministers in the cabinet drawn from minority communities, but holding office at the mercy of the major community, again has neither secured even-handed justice to the minority communities in administration nor prevented outcries against the administration for its communal view-point. The lodging of special responsibility in the Governors to safeguard the interests of the minority communities in their provinces has again failed to keep the minorities contented; it has very often been asserted that the Governors have been usually powerless to take any action in opposition to the policy of the cabinets secure in their solid majorities in the legislatures.

The absurdity of one or two minority ministers being able to control the policy of the majority was seen at its height when the Punjab Government described itself the other day as 'Unionist in policy' and 'coalition in personnel'. Worse still, the Finance Minister presented a surplus Budget in the Punjab legislature last March, but one of his colleagues introduced a taxing measure, of which the Finance Minister had taken no notice and obviously felt not the least necessity. The communal disturbances in Sind were

officially ascribed the other day to the predominantly communal aspect of the administration which was not apparently influenced by the presence of a minister drawn from the minority community. Some of the utterances of the Bengal premier in the last cabinet could hardly have been sponsored by the ministers belonging to the minority communities. Rightly or wrongly, the Congress governments including among them in most cases the representatives of the minority communities, were accused of following a policy inimical to the interests and aspirations of the minority communities. Not in one single province have the minorities felt their interests protected and safeguarded by the presence in the cabinet of ministers belonging to their communities but nominated by the majority community and holding office at the pleasure of the majority of members of the legislature of the other community.

From the cabinet and the legislature communal representation has now filtered down to public services. Here its failure is still more pronounced. To begin with, its introduction here offended against all canons of honest administration. To appoint a man to be a judge of the High Court not because he is otherwise eminently fitted to hold that office but because he happens to belong to this community or that is to invite the suspicion that if a case happens to involve communal considerations, he might remember his origin and consciously or unconsciously be influenced by communal considerations. To ask a man to hold a post in the Indian Civil Service because, though he does not come up to the standard of competition, he belongs to a particular community, is again to provide that he would fail the administration when his services are most needed. In all posts where selection plays some part, every time a member of a minority community is selected, other members of the service cannot resist the conclusion that their claims have been ignored in order to placate the less worthy members of the other communities. The distribution of public appointments community-wise creates a gulf between various communities which

no amount of lectures on communal harmony can bridge. If certain communities are educationally backward today, the obvious course is to map out a programme of educational development which would place all the facilities of the state at the disposal of the backward community and help it to shake off this badge of inferiority. This would not necessarily mean that we would be able to produce equally eminent lawyers, judges, or administrators from among all the communities in equal numbers or in proportion to their population. To assign a certain number of public appointments to 'backward or intermediate' communities on account of their 'backwardness' perpetuates their inferior status and puts a premium on it. We may as well legislate that for every business magnate from among the Parsis, the Chetties, or the Khojas, there should be as many more such men among the more numerical communities. If business ability cannot be distributed among various communities according to their population in India or elsewhere, no more can aptitude for public services be thus produced to command.

There is one question that is often left unanswered in this connection. What can the members of the abler communities do to wash off the sin of their being in such 'happy' circumstances? When a Romesh Chandar stands sixth in the list of successful candidates for Indian Finance, how is he to be reconciled to his fate when Abdul Hamid standing fifteenth in the list is appointed to a post which Romesh Chandar was undoubtedly better able to fill. And what does the state expect him to do after thus proving his capacity to serve it efficiently? To join the rank of revolutionaries sworn to destroy the state in which there is so much rank injustice? Will it convince him of the propriety or the justice of his exclusion from office if he is told that because he happens to bear a particular type of name, this makes him unfit to hold the job for which he is otherwise eminently fit. Verily, the sins of the fathers are being visited on their children.

Those who talk glibly of communal representations conveniently forget that it

is an anomaly produced in the hot houses of India alone. Elsewhere members of different races, religions, and communities have learnt to live in peace as citizen of one country. The difference of races and religion are not our monopoly alone. In the United States of America, an American citizen is anything from a full blooded Negro to a hundred per cent. American. He may be a Swede or Norwegian, Russian or Italian, Portuguese or German. He might speak one of the half a hundred fully or partially developed languages and dialects. By religion he might be a Jew or a Theosophist, a Bahai or Mormon, a Roman Catholic or Unitarian, Presbyterian or Protestant. In the Union of South Africa you have the Boer and the English colonials. In Canada, you have the descendants of the French and the English settlers. Nowhere else has political wisdom been enshrined in putting a premium on backwardness. Communal representation was intended as a device for perpetuating the British hold on India. It is now threatening to Balkanize India and murder Indian nationalism. It is time we started attacking the problem of communal harmony on a new basis. We would then find that communal representation has utterly failed to bring it about and the sooner it is scrapped, the better for all concerned.

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SOME CONVENTIONS OF PARLIAMENT

BY DEWAN BAHADUR R. V. KRISHNA IYER, C.I.E.

IN addition to written rules, there are numerous customs and practices loosely called Conventions of Parliament which play a great part in determining the procedure of Parliament, which are not recorded in any written rules, but which are nevertheless treated as binding on all the parties concerned. They are neither so important nor so well known as the constitutional conventions mentioned by Dicey. Disregard of them will not bring the offender into conflict with the ordinary law of the land. Courts have no jurisdiction to enforce them, as they have no power to determine rights to be exercised within the House which are a matter of internal regulation for the House itself. In spite of these facts, the existence of certain conventions of procedure is fully recognised by all parties, and the conventions themselves are treated as part of the ethical code regulating the procedure of Parliament. They are never in practice violated, though they may not universally be admitted to be inviolable. They smoothen the Parliamentary machine and help to maintain what may be described as the 'atmosphere' of Parliament.

It would be impossible to refer to all these unwritten rules, but a few may be mentioned:

We often read of the Treasury Bench and the Front Opposition Bench in the House of Commons. It is by custom and not on account of any written rule that the Front Bench on the right hand side of the Speaker is appropriated by the Members of Government and that the front bench on the opposite side is reserved for the leading members of the Opposition who may be regarded as His Majesty's alternative Government in case the members of the Treasury Bench vacate office. But for this fundamental physical character of the House of Commons, namely, its division into a right and a left, the British Parliamentary system of Government would lose much of its ocular appeal to the nation,

Several conventions cluster round the Speaker's office. Some of them are more than mere conventions of procedure. For instance, it is a convention that a sitting Speaker should be re-elected unopposed, so long as he is willing and able to act as Speaker, even if the party from which he came is no longer in office. This convention has been followed for the last more than hundred years—ever since 1835 when the Whigs successfully set up Abercrombie as a candidate against Manners Sutton, the sitting Conservative Speaker. It is also a convention not to oppose the re-election of the former Speaker at a General Election, though there have been two exceptions to it: (i) the setting up of a Conservative candidate at Carlisle against Mr. Gully in 1895, and (ii) the setting up of a Labour candidate at Darenty against the present Speaker in 1935. The fact that at both these elections, the opposing candidate was defeated may be regarded as an approval by the electorate of the convention itself. Both these conventions are due to a recognition of the impartiality of the Chair and a desire to maintain its prestige and dignity.

At the time of his election, the Speaker is not proposed by a Minister of the Crown. This practice has been in existence at least since the time of Pitt who is said to have been desirous of proposing Mr. Addington, but was advised by the then Clerk of the House of Commons, Mr. Hatsell, not to do so on the ground that an invidious use might be made of it to represent the Speaker as the friend of the Minister rather than the choice of the House.

The Speaker does not vote at divisions except when the numbers are equal, when he gives a casting vote. Although he is at liberty to give this vote according to his conscience and without assigning a reason, in practice, he always votes in such a way as not to make the decision of the House final and also gives his reasons for his vote. In following this convention, he only

follows the principle that it is not merely sufficient for the Speaker to be impartial but that he should so act as to convince the parties in the House that he is impartial.

RULES OF DEBATE

In calling members to speak, the Speaker calls on them from alternate sides. This is for the purpose of giving life to discussion, so that arguments might be met by counter-arguments, and also to give equal chances to the members on both sides. Then again, a new member who has not spoken is generally called upon in preference to others who have spoken. As regards this, however, it may be mentioned that this practice applies only to the lifetime of the Parliament to which the member has been returned. If a member does not speak in the Parliament to which he has been elected but is again returned to the next Parliament, he is not given preference over other members on the ground that he never spoke in the previous Parliament.

Most of the rules relating to verbal courtesies in debate are the result of conventions. Unparliamentary expressions should not be used during debate. For the purpose of guarding against all appearance of personality, each member must be distinguished by the place he represents or the office he holds or by other respectable designations. If a statement is attributed to a member and that member denies it, the denial must be accepted as final for the purpose of that debate. If the offending words are withdrawn and ample regret expressed or apology made, the member to whom offence was given must not persist in his resentment, but must be satisfied; and so on. All these rules are intended to maintain the calm and decorous atmosphere of the House which is required not only in the interests of the dignity of the House, but for enabling it to arrive at dispassionate decisions during debate.

NO CONFIDENCE OR CENSURE MOTIONS

If there is a censure or no-confidence motion against the Government proposed or sanctioned by the Leader of the Opposition, the Government should always find time for its discussion, however heavy or

important their programme of business, although they are entitled to mobilise all their party strength for the purpose of defeating the motion. The Government thus postpones their business in order to allow the Opposition to threaten death or damnation.

LEGISLATION

That Bills become law after three readings in each Chamber and that Standing Committees on Bills are generally so constituted as to represent the strength of parties in the House, are truisms of Parliamentary procedure. These are no doubt referred to in the Standing Orders of the House. But these Standing Orders are made by the House and can be altered by the majority at any time. But no Parliament has ever thought of amending these Standing Orders. For, apart from the specific practices and conventions referred to above, there is a general convention that though the Government relies upon the strength of its majority for governing, it should govern with the consent of the Opposition. At the same time, the Opposition also should not obstruct the Government and make the work of Government impossible. If either side pressed its rights to the utmost, Parliamentary system would come to an end. Consultation is, therefore, directed to the minimisation of opposition. There is constant contact between the leaders of parties and the whips of parties for the purpose of arriving at co-operative understandings for common work. The allotment of days for particular kinds of work, the speed at which certain measures shall be carried through, the time when a closure should be moved, the giving of days for non-official business, the hours of sitting, the membership of committees appointed by the House, and various other things of a similar nature are generally determined by agreement between the parties "behind the Speaker's Chair", "through the usual channels"; and such agreement goes a long way to ensure that a reasonable amount of business is done with a reasonable amount of criticism. Ultimately, the rights not only of minorities but also of majorities are dependent not so much on the rules but on practice and tradition,

INDIA IN 1842

BY MR. GOPAL DAS

[T was a sad day in the history of British rule in India that dawned on January 1, hundred years ago.

The First Afghan War, which began on May 22, 1838, had not yet reached conclusion. Dost Mohamed, the Amir of Kabul, had surrendered himself and was now a prisoner in India, the British were in possession of the Afghan capital, but the Governor General, Lord Auckland's attempt to place Shah Shuja, 'the discredited pensionary of Ludhiana', on the vacant throne, had tragic consequences.

The Shah was distrusted and disliked by his countrymen and failed to arouse even a spark of enthusiasm. The Afghans rose to a man to regain their lost independence. On November 2, 1841, Sir Alexander Burnes, of the British Embassy, was murdered within a stone's throw of the British garrison under General Elphinstone, an old and incapable officer, who made no attempt to suppress the tumult. He thought the matter a mere riot of no importance. The city at once passed altogether out of control. The tribesmen rapidly gathered. On December 11, the British stores depot was destroyed. Fearing starvation, Sir William Macnaghten, the British Minister, concluded a humiliating treaty with the insurgents led by Akbar Khan, the son of Dost Mohammed. The terms required the British to evacuate Afghanistan (Shah Shuja to go with them or remain as he chose), and to release Dost Mohammed from their captivity. On December 23, however, Macnaghten was murdered for attempting to divide the tribal chiefs by bribery and re-establish the British position. The Afghans redoubled their demands after this event. But the imbecile Elphinstone was prepared to concede almost anything.

THE RETREAT

On January 1, 1842, came the crowning humiliation. Disregarding the earnest pleadings of Pottinger, his second in command, that all negotiations with the enemy should be abandoned, and that the army should either seize Bala Hissar, the palace citadel of Kabul and hold out till

succour came, or cut their way through, sword in hand, to Jalalabad, where General Salo was gallantly resisting all Afghan attempts to dislodge him from the fortress. General Elphinstone signed a *treach* capitulation. The British forces in Kabul were to band over their guns, muskets and ammunition to Akbar and march down to Peshawar immediately under the escort of a body of Afghans.

On January 6, finding that the escort did not appear, the troops, completely demoralised by the incapacity of their leaders, insisted on setting out. In bitter cold, 4,600 soldiers and 12,000 camp followers, encumbered by a train of dolies or litters, bearing women and children, began their tragic retreat. The Afghans hung upon their flanks and followed up their rear. After a while they started firing down upon them from the hills. Frozen, starved, defenceless, the Generals lost their heads and the troops their morale.

Every day the attacks became closer and more persistent. In the long Khurd-Kabul pass, running for five miles between high hills, over 3,000 men were killed with scarce an attempt at resistance, and women, children and many officers, including Elphinstone himself were surrendered to the enemy as hostages. "The rest," writes P. E. Roberts, "struggled on in misery and privation through snow-storms and a constant hail of bullets. The retreat became a rout, the rout a massacre. No pen can do justice to the ghastly horrors of the final struggle. The last despairing stand was made at the Pass of Jagdalak, when twelve officers laid down their lives. One man, Dr. Brydon, half dead with wounds and exhaustion, staggered into Jalalabad—with the exception of about 120 prisoners in the hands of Akbar Khan, the sole survivor of 16,000 men who had set out from Kabul a week before."

LORD ELLENBOROUGH ARRIVES

This was the greatest catastrophe that ever befell the British in India, and it is not surprising that it completely shattered and unnerved Lord Auckland, the man mainly responsible. Fortunately for

him there had been a change of Government in England towards the close of 1841. The Whigs' twelve-year long tenure of office had come to an end and Lord Peel became the Prime Minister. Lord Auckland was recalled and Lord Ellenborough, thrice President of the Board of Control, was sent out to India and landed at Madras on February 21.

The destruction of the Kabul brigade had not meant the total extermination of British forces from Afghanistan. Sale had successfully withstood repeated Afghan attacks to drive him out of Jalalabad, even in spite of a terrible earthquake on February 19 which severely shook the walls and seriously damaged the defences; a small garrison still held Ghazni while General Nott was at Kandahar. But the future evidently depended on the policy of the new Governor-General. Fortunately the slow, timid, irresolute Auckland's successor was possessed of the very qualities the situation demanded, instant decision and resolute action. His strong personality was soon reflected in the change in the Government's hitherto inefficient handling of the frontier situation. Preparations for the relief of the beleaguered British garrisons were undertaken and pushed forward with great vigour.

But on March 5, unable to hold out any longer, General Palmer capitulated at Ghazni and, about a fortnight later, General England was defeated at Hakkalwai. These two small reverses caused Lord Ellenborough to falter in his decision. Impulsively he determined on immediate evacuation without any attempt at reprisals or the rescue of prisoners held by the Afghans. Nott was ordered to abandon Kandahar and Pollock, who had set out to relieve Jalalabad, to withdraw to Peshawar. The order fell, as Outram says, 'like a thunderclap' on the gallant band of officers and men who had kept the East India Company's flag flying against impossible odds. They pleaded inability to comply.

In India too a wave of indignation swept over the country. Ellenborough at once saw that he had blundered, but made things worse by his ill-advised endeavours to reverse the order while maintaining a verbal consistency. On July 4, while repeating his

order for withdrawal, he issued 'discretionary instructions' to Nott and Pollock, permitting them, if they thought it expedient, to "join hands at Kabul and then return together by way of the Khyber".

KABUL RECAPTURED

The Governor-General thus shifted his own responsibility upon the military commanders, who accepted it eagerly and promptly concerted the needful measures.

Nott advanced on Kabul from Kandahar on August 7, and Pollock from Jalalabad on August 20. The latter met with considerable opposition but near Tezin he drove Akbar Khan before him in a head-long fight and on September 15 entered Kabul and planted the British flag on the ramparts of Bala Hissar. Two days later Nott arrived, having, on his way, destroyed the fortifications of Ghazni and brought away, by Ellenborough's express wish, the club hanging on the tomb of the great Mahmud, and the sandalwood gates which were traditionally believed to have been carried off from the famous temple of Somnath, in Gujarat, in 1024 A.D.

The reappearance of the British in Kabul filled the Afghan chiefs with dismay and they at once surrendered the prisoners that had fallen into their hands during Elphinstone's fatal march. Poor wretches, they had been hurried from place to place and were in danger of being sold into Central Asia as slaves. The unfortunate Elphinstone himself had died a prisoner at Tezin on April 23.

No difference of opinion was expressed as to the propriety of punishing in some way the guilty city of Kabul. Some recommended the destruction of Bala Hissar, but Pollock preferred to blow up the Grand Bazar through which the dead body of Macnaghten had been paraded by the Afghans.

HONOUR VINDICATED

The honour of the British flag having thus been vindicated, the troops in pursuance of Ellenborough's policy of complete withdrawal from the Afghan "hornets' nest" marched back to India on December 12. They left as purely nominal ruler Fateh Jung, one of Shah Shuja's sons. The Shah himself had

been murdered on April 5. after the collapse of British authority in Kabul.

The Governor-General met the returning troops in a great camp at Ferozepur with 'triumphal arches and histrionic paeans of victory'. In a high-falutin proclamation, in the style of Napoleon's Pyramids Manifesto, he announced to the people and princes of India: "Our victorious army bears the gates of the temple of Somnath in triumph from Afghanistan and the despoiled tomb of Mahmud on the ruins of Ghazni. The insult of 800 years is avenged."

Thus was brought to an honourable close the disastrous Afghan 'incident' which cost the British 20,000 precious human lives and the stupendous sum of fifteen millions sterling.

SIND AFFAIRS

Next to Afghanistan, Sind figures most prominently in the Indian scene in 1842. As war seemed inevitable with the neighbouring Sovereign State of the Punjab, which had been in a state of chronic revolution since Ranjit Singh's death in 1839, the occupation of Sind by the British became imperative as it offered a suitable base for operations against the Sikhs.

When, in connection with the invasion of Afghanistan, Lord Auckland decided to make use of the Sind route, he had demanded that the Amirs of the province should show themselves friends of the British by co-operating in the war. They were required to let the Bombay Brigade pass up the Indus and to make over the island of Bukkar as a depot on the British line of communication. The Amirs expressed unwillingness to grant these points. But where negotiations failed, the threat of arms succeeded. Lord Auckland ordered the Company's forces to advance on Hyderabad. Frightened into submission, the Amirs accepted the terms and further agreed to maintain an army of occupation in Sind.

When the Afghan disasters of January 1842 became known, the Amirs thought that the time for revenge had come. They began to intrigue with the Persians, the Afghans and the Sikhs. Rostam Khan of Khairpur appealed to Sher Singh, the

Ruler of Lahore, to send his soldiers. But the English somehow came to know of the conspiracy and Ellenborough decided that the position in Sind must be cleared up at once and that the British forces should remain there until the Amirs had accepted the Company's suzerainty in the clearest terms. Sir Charles Napier, the famous soldier, was sent to Hyderabad vested with sole authority in civil and military matters.

On his arrival (September 9), Napier proposed a new treaty which, in the words of the historian, "amounted to a complete surrender of their (Amirs') national rights". While verbally agreeing to accept the humiliation, the Sindhis proceeded to collect troops with the intention of resisting. Matters came to a head on December 18 when Napier asked the Amirs to cede the districts of Sabzkot and Bhungbarra to Bhawalpur. They refused and fled to Imamgarh, a desert fortress, difficult of access and locally enjoying the reputation of being impregnable.

Taking this as a defiance of British authority, Napier marched against the place and razed it to the ground with his heavy artillery. On General Outram's intercession the Sindhis surrendered lest worse should befall them.

These events led to the final flare-up in February 1849 when Sind was annexed to British India.

PUNJAB REIGN OF TERROR

During 1842, the independent Sikh kingdom of the Panjab was in the throes of a Reign of Terror. Its ambitious ruler, Sher Singh, desired to emulate the exploits of Ranjit Singh, the Sikh national hero, but the real power was centralized in the hands of the Khalsa party, which carried on the government through its delegates the Panchayats, or Committees of Five, who somewhat resembled the 'Agitators' of the Roundhead army in the English Civil War, and ruthlessly bore down all opposition.

Sher Singh secretly implored the help of Lord Auckland against his insubordinate soldiery but was betrayed and put to the sword by the Khalsa Junta. A dismal

series of revolutions and assassinations followed. Rajas, Ranis, Ministers, none escaped the terrible fate. All was chaos until 1845 when Dulip Singh, a child of five and supposed son of Ranjit, whose memory the Sikhs respected, was acknowledged Maharaja. With his mother, Rani Jindan, an able, intriguing, licentious woman—the Messalina of the North as Lord Hardinge called her—as regent.

INDIAN STATES

There were various important happenings in the States of India in 1842. Abdul Fateh Moinuddin Sultan Zaman Mohammed Ali, the King of Oudh, died on May 17 and was succeeded by his son, Suria Jah Ahmed. In June, two tribes of Gamsun Khands revolted against their rulers and placed themselves under British protection. With the passing away on August 8 of Mir

Afzaluddin, the Nawab of Surat, the titular dignity and office became extinct.

In Rajputana, Maharana Sarup Singh succeeded to the Mewar *gaddi* in December, following the death of his elder brother, Maharana Sardar Singh. During the dark days of the Indian Mutiny, the new ruler afforded asylum to hundreds of English women and children in Jag-Mandir, the island-palace in the Pichola lake.

There were mutinous outbreaks in the Madras army early in the year but were promptly put down by Lord Ellenborough who happened to be there at the time.

FIRST P. & O. SHIP

Finally, in 1842, a new chapter was written in the history of Indian navigation when the first P. & O. Steamer to India the *Hindusthan* arrived at Madras in the month of December.



"That, Sir, was the Italian Empire," says the British General, Cunningham, to the Emperor Haile Selassie, restored to his throne. (Reproduced by kind permission of Punch.)

THE ORIGIN OF INDIAN DRAMA

By Miss WAHIDA AZIZ

THE origin of Indian drama is fresh evidence be brought to light, the best theory offered is that Kalidasa perfected, whereas his forerunners created the Sanskrit drama out of the lost Prakrit plays, including the *samvadas* or mysteries which were enacted at solemn seasons of periodic sacrifice. Vedic and epic bards alike, as well as the later dramatists, must have felt that Sanskrit was a fitter vehicle than Prakrit for expressing profound thoughts and sublime sentiments and stood a better chance of survival than current speech which follows the changing taste and fashion. Yet, some authorities maintain that India has borrowed the drama from Greece. Greek colonies were thriving at the seaports and trading stations of the East. It is quite possible that these settlements of wealthy Greeks kept up a stage to beguile a few hours pleasantly, after a busy day, just as English officers and civilians frequent the performances of the Simla Dramatic Club. Ujjain and Kanauj, where the early Sanskrit theatre took root and flourished, may have come in contact with Greek trade and culture, nay, Kalidasa and Bana had, perhaps, some acquaintance with Attic wit and letters. Even if all these assumptions were correct, although there are no real basis for them, still the classical theatre would have a just claim to originality.

CONTRASTING FEATURES

Genius never copies slavishly, although foreign ideas may awaken a congenial strain in the tuneful breast. But no direct proof whatever can be adduced that any Hellenic influence was brought to bear upon the Indian drama which has a thoroughly national foundation. On the contrary, there are weighty reasons for disbelieving in such influences, for Greek and Indian plays diametrically differ both in arrangement and principle. The Greeks recognise, whereas Indian dramas ignore the unity of time and place. The Greek chorus, in the character of a moral judge, is entirely unknown in our productions. Again, the happy blending of tragic and comic incidents, which is

characteristic of Indian plays, is altogether against the rules of the Athenian stage. The key-note of Greek poetry is joy and pride of life, but Sanskrit dramas, though they all end well, generally moralise on the text that life is but vanity and vexation of spirit.

On these grounds it can be safely said that Indian theatre is home-grown, and not a foreign graft. If epic and lyric matured into the drama under Greek skies, why could not Sanskrit literature have passed through a similar process of evolution? The human mind, given similar conditions, shows the same tendencies and possibilities everywhere, and if dramatic literature originated independently in China and in Greece, the same could have happened in India.

3RD CENTURY B.C.

It seems that Oriental romance endowed Alexander with magical gifts and super-human virtues. In the 3rd century B.C., when the Greek dependencies in the East were no longer held by Alexander's wonderful personality, huge fragments of conquered territory broke off the Imperial colossus and were tossed about like so many tennis balls between usurper and conspirator. Bactria, a Macedonian colony in Turkestan, alone stood firm and grew powerful, despite all political schemes and diplomatic intrigues. It was owing to the military genius of Seleucus, one of Alexander's ablest lieutenants, that Bactrian rule came to extend from the Syrian Sea to the Indian border. The Seleucides erected strong forts along the river Indus, and occupied Gujarat. Asoka's son, being fully awake to the danger which threatened Maghada if the Greeks marched further east, sent General Pushpamitra against the foreign invader. He defeated the Bactrian forces somewhere in the Punjab and returned home laden with rich spoil and trophies.

Pushpamitra's son and successor was Agnimitra, whose suzerainty extended as far as Nagpur, where Madhava reigned then. The powerful Raja of Berar had forcibly annexed the little state of Nagpur. King Madhava, on offering resistance, was

made prisoner of war. Princess Kausbiki and her beautiful sister Malavika fled in disguise and joined a travelling caravan which was bound for the capital of Maghada. The heavy chain of family misfortunes weighed upon royal spirits and Kausbiki vowed she would take the veil and become a Buddhist nun, if ever she reached Maghada safely. In the meantime, Agnimitra's armies marched against Berar to King Madhava's rescue.

Such is the historical background of one of Kalidasa's plays. This drama is much admired in India, but is inferior and probably also anterior to Shakuntala.

KALIDASA'S SUCCESSOR

Bhavabhuti stands next to Kalidasa as far as Indian drama is concerned. Like Schiller, he was a born idealist, his soul aglow with profound ideas of freedom and immortality. Kalidasa was no less a realist; his poetry mirrors mankind as he saw it, and not as he wished to see it. But Bhavabhuti was a lofty moralist; his genius was logical, restless, romantic, and he was eager to leave the world better than he had found it. He died in Kashmir full of years and honour. His grateful countrymen have never ceased to venerate the sweet-voiced (abhi-kantha) poet.

His two finest dramas, the Uttara Rama Charita and Maha-Vira Charita deal respectively with Rama's courtship and married life previous to the conquest of Lanka and events subsequent to the hero's return from Ceylon.

The Brihat Katha (Great Narrative) is a celebrated collection of old Prakrit stories which fed the imagination of King Harsha's Court, and afforded entertainment to Kalidasa's contemporaries, who appreciated his magnificent setting of Shakuntala and Urvashi. The tales (akkhanaas) of the national heroes, narrated in the epics, and Prakrit romance supplied Indian playwrights with ample material and were very popular. The play-goers of Kanooj liked these pieces so much that they were modernised by various later dramatists.

INDIAN HISTORY NEGLECTED

It is a pity that the history of India has been sadly neglected by her great poets. Only two Sanskrit dramas record a brief

span of political events—Malavika Agnimitra by Kalidasa, and Mudra-Rakshasha by Vishakhadatta, a younger contemporary of Bhavabhuti. The former is rich in poetic sentiment and imagination, while the latter is full of dry humour, and with a cold glitter which now and again renders the budget of some great parliamentarian so brilliant and effective.

Bhatta Narayan, who lived a hundred years after Bhavabhuti, made Draupadi the heroine of a national drama and drew various characters of the Mahabharata very graphically. But this did not become so popular as Ramayana. Consequently, younger dramatists paid more attention to the latter and laid the scene in the royal palace at Mithila.

It may be mentioned that by far the most spirited Rama play is a comedy of errors written by Ramabhadra. In it, Sita's swayamvara (choosing a husband) gives rise to some scenes of exquisite humour. Her suitors try to bend an unwieldy bow, Rama alone succeeds. In Ceylon, this play has been transformed from the national theatre to the operatic stage. There they last from sunset until dawn and are very much appreciated.

Similarly, the Tamil theatre in the south has shown itself no less partial to Ramayana and has fondly preserved the memory of their national hero.

ONE ACT PLAYS

Besides dramas, most of the pieces in Indian dramas are only one act comedies called 'Prahasana'. They are skits on social follies, brimful with wit and catchy puns. The Soma sacrifice, which gave rise to the Ninth Mandala of the Rig Veda, is also associated with the oldest 'prahasana'. They were boisterous farces, rough and gruff like the rumbling and grumbling of a thunderstorm. The seeds of tragedy and buffoonery, fatal and comic, lie embedded side by side in Nature's dissolute forces.

Similarly, musical sketches are extremely popular in South India. The best of these have been composed by Varada and are mostly monologues of a ruined gambler. They are open-air plays and give rise to some couplets on the fair sex in general and on married life in particular.

Though not popular, marionettes are the only kind of spectacle accessible to the Indian peasantry and are usually set up in the open fields or on a highroad. Panchali, as they are generally called, are entertainments known to have been popular in ancient Java. The puppets are made of wood and cardboard and can be easily worked with strings or by wires. Their limbs are cleverly jointed so that the panchalis may freely gesticulate with arms and legs. As a rule, the subject is taken from the traditional lore of the two national epics, but political history has considerably enlarged the repertoire.

REVIVAL OF INDIAN DRAMA

The revival of Indian dramas, notably open-air theatres, in many parts of India,

adds a significant chapter to the history of Indian aesthetics and culture. These dramas, together with some of the recent archaeological discoveries, give back to the world, in much of its encyclopaedic comprehensiveness and epic grandeur the ancient art of Abhinaya-Nritya (dance drama).

The first Open Air Theatre, now almost complete at Lahore, should go a long way towards reviving the Indian drama which was so popular in the past, but of late has become somewhat stagnant.

It is to be hoped that similar attempts in other big cities of India by exponents of the art will save it from decay and keep it as a living organism for future generations to come.



This is how the Englishman of 1859 regarded a threat by Napoleon III to invade Great Britain. There is something particularly apposite in the conception of the braggart warrior ruler trying to frighten the stolid British Lion with an ineffectively squeaking poodle. The Empire of Napoleon III collapsed eleven years after, just as the Empire of Philip II of Spain, King Louis XIV, and another Napoleon, who all in their time threatened to invade England, collapsed before it. "Mr. Punch" was a happy prophet. (Reproduced by kind permission of "Punch.")

RECENT GATHERINGS

—(o)—

The Christmas holidays usually provide the occasion for a number of Conferences—political and cultural. During the closing week of December last and the first week of last month many such gatherings took place in different centres of India. The Liberal Federation met at Madras and the banned session of the Hindu Maha Sabha at Bhagalpur. The History Congress and the Oriental Conference met at Hyderabad. The Science Congress and the Statistical Conference at Baroda. Calcutta was the scene of the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. An attempt is made in the following pages to give a bird's-eye view of these and other recent gatherings and to provide the busy reader with a precis of their proceedings. It is hoped that this brief account of these important Conferences will be read with interest.—[ED. I. R.]

NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION

The 23rd Session of the National Liberal Federation of India met at Madras on December 26, under the presidency of Sir B. P. Singh Roy of Calcutta.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the delegates, pointed out that the maintenance of the British connection has been part of the creed of the Liberal Party from the beginning. After referring to the war, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer touched on the Hindu-Muslim conflict.

The conflict between the claims of the two communities is largely the creation of British policy, and the British Government cannot avoid responsibility for its solution. The demand of the Muslim community for the division of India into Pakistan and Hindustan is one which no Hindu, or for that matter anyone sincerely interested in the national integrity and welfare of India, can possibly agree to.

The refusal of Mr. Churchill to extend the scope of the Atlantic Charter to India and the refusal to fix a date for the attainment of Dominion Status betray an utter lack of statesmanship, said Sivaswamy Aiyer, and have contributed to deepen the suspicion of the people in the sincerity of British promises qualified by conditions which cannot possibly be fulfilled in any near future.

The present deadlock cannot be considered to be merely the result of a domestic problem arising from the failure of the two major communities to come together. It is far more largely due to the issue between Britain and ourselves in regard to the unwillingness of the former to transfer real power to the people of India, as amply evidenced by the scheme for the expansion of the Executive Council in the Government of India.

The war affords excellent opportunities for the creation of basic industries, and he hoped Government would take advantage of these opportunities.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Sir Bejoy Prasad Singh Roy, former Minister in Bengal, who presided, said that as realists we cannot remain indifferent to the need for co-operation in war efforts and to the necessities of political adjustment.

Sir Bejoy Prasad discussed the methods of resolving the present deadlock and evolving a stable constitution. Among them are the calling of a national convention and new schemes of representation. But apart from these:

The mere pledge of Dominion Status does not inspire enthusiasm among our countrymen because it is fastened round with three vague conditions: (1) there is no definite time-limit at the end of which the pledge will be redeemed; (2) the transfer of political powers should be consistent with certain historic and other obligations which the British Government have towards India; (3) the right of self-determination will be conceded in the event of agreement amongst Indians themselves. This threefold brake emphasised in the recent declarations of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India has rendered the pledge illusory and incapable of being redeemed. The history of British rule in India is strewn with many a broken pledge, and they have honoured such pledges only when the Indian national demand proved inexorable. It is a sad comment on British statesmanship.

One need hardly remind the authorities that unless Indians are definitely assured that they too will have equal opportunity of being liberated when the new democratic world order is ushered in on the victory of the Allied powers in the war, it is more than human to expect that India will prove enthusiastic in supporting Great Britain in this struggle and would strain her every nerve in contributing to the Allied Victory.

RESOLUTIONS

The first important resolution dealt with the Bhagalpur ban on the Hindu Maha Sabha, which was moved by the Rt. Hon. Dr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. The resolution deplored the ban "which is a denial of the fundamental rights of citizens and for which there is no justification" and emphatically condemned "the arbitrary action of the Bihar administration". Mr. Sastri held that the conduct of Mr. Savarkar, President of the Hindu Mahasabha, and his colleagues "merited the approbation of independent and honourable citizens". Sir Cowasji Jehangir and Dr. Paranjpye spoke next and the resolution was carried.

On the motion of Mr. E. Vinayaka Rao, seconded by Dr. C. S. Mahajani, the Conference passed a resolution opposing any idea of dividing India on a communal basis. Such a division in the opinion of the Federation was anti-national, inimical to the unity and cohesion of India and entailed the danger of disintegrating the national units, resulting in complete disruption of the nation.

Dr. M. D. Altekar moved, and Mr. Dalip Man Singh seconded another resolution in regard to separate electorates. The Federation, while agreeable to the safeguarding of the interests of all sections of the people, considered

that the aim of India's political evolution should be a democracy not based on considerations of race or creed. Therefore, the Federation was definitely opposed to the permanent existence of communal electorates and the present Communal Award.

On the third day, the Federation adopted a resolution on India and the war, condemning the aggressive powers.

The Federation is of opinion that the forces of progress and justice in this conflict are represented by the Allied powers, such as Great Britain, America, Soviet Russia and China.

The Federation feels that the present Far East War situation has brought India into the front line of the conflict and, therefore, appeals both to the Government and the people to view the situation realistically and mobilise the resources of the country in men and material to protect the lives of India's teeming millions from the imminent danger which threatens the country.

At the same time it feels that the unity between the Government and the people required for the necessary effort will not be possible unless a new psychological atmosphere is created by a change in the policy of His Majesty's Government towards India which is urgently called for.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, who moved this resolution, was seconded by Mr. H. N. Kunzru and supported by the Hon. Mr. P. N. Saprú.

Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer moved the next resolution relating to the future constitution of India.

The National Liberal Federation of India protests against the *Primo Minister's* speech excluding India from the scope of the Atlantic Charter and the recent speeches of Mr. Amery and Lord Lintithgow, reiterating the determination of His Majesty's Government to make no change in their policy towards India.

The Federation, while regarding the recent expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council by the appointment of additional Indian members as a step in the right direction, considers it as entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the situation. It is of the opinion that the Central Government should be so reconstructed as to have a fully national character. The Executive Council should consist entirely of non-official Indians, who should take charge of all portfolios, including Finance and Defence. The reconstructed Government should deal with all questions of policy on the basis of joint responsibility and the British Government should not ordinarily interfere with any policy that has the support of the Indianised executive and the central legislature.

In regard to all inter-Imperial and international matters, the reconstructed Government should be treated on the same footing as a Dominion government. The Federation further demands that to remove the doubts and apprehensions that had been created as to the genuineness of the intentions of His Majesty's Government regarding the future constitutional status of India, it should be immediately declared that India will enjoy the position of equality in regard to both status and functions with England and the Dominions within a period not exceeding two years after the conclusion of the war.

The resolution was seconded by Sir Vital Chandavarkar supported by the Hon. P. N. Saprú, Mr. C. R. Somayajulu and Mr. R. H. Kelkar and carried unanimously.

Mr. Kunzru moved a resolution urging a radical change in the defence policy of the Government which was seconded by Sir Vital Chandavarkar.

Another resolution, moved from the chair, urged Indianisation of the supply department and appealed to the Government to foster industrial development. Two more resolutions dealt with political prisoners and Indians abroad. Yet another urged on the Provincial Governments to consider and improve the condition of those engaged in agriculture.

THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS

The annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce met at the Royal Exchange, Calcutta, on December 15. Twenty-eight members representing 14 Chambers attended the meeting. Mr. G. B. Morton, President of the Chambers, welcomed their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Governor of Bengal.

After urging that defence measures should be brought up to the highest state of efficiency, Mr. Morton referred to war production programmes which were dominating industry and commerce in India increasingly as "time" went on.

Referring to price control, he said that there were various ways of counteracting inflation, but the primary need was to avoid steps which might merely unnecessarily penalise the whole economy without achieving any real benefit.

It is customary for the Viceroy to open the proceedings of the Conference with an address which is looked forward to with considerable interest in circles other than merely commercial. His Excellency Lord Linlithgow made a lengthy speech reviewing the events of the war and the part that India is playing by its enormous output in men and money and munitions. After referring to India's magnificent war-efforts, His Excellency made an ardent appeal to the people of India to forget their domestic differences and work together for the common object at a crucial moment in the history of mankind.

Reiterating the August offer of 1940, the Viceroy regretted that his appeal did not secure the response for which he had hoped and that although he was prevented from going ahead on the lines proposed by him, he would repeat

that the guarantees, undertakings, pledges, intentions and attitude of His Majesty's Government as explained in his statement towards the future constitutional development of India and the machinery by which it was to be brought about were as valid to day as when they were first spoken.

His Excellency then referred to the creation of additional departments of His Executive Council and said that it was a step the significance of which was far greater than he sometimes thought, was realised. The

Council in its form was a body of great authority and great distinction. It was a strong effective and distinguished body and India might be content in the hope that they might yet see a day when in the Provinces which were still without ministerial Government, they would see in power Governments set on winning the war and ready to use the immense power and opportunities at their disposal.

A number of important resolutions were adopted at the Session after discussions. Mr. W. J. Younie (Bengal) moved and Mr. J. Nuttall (Madras) seconded a resolution urging upon the Government of India the need for an early amendment of Section 10 (2) (VII) of the Indian Income-Tax Act so that when losses are incurred through the sale of a building or furniture or through these becoming obsolete, such losses will be allowed as a deduction from income.

Mr. Gibbon moved a resolution urging compensation for injury or damage caused by army drivers when on duty. Other resolutions related to workmen's compensation, insurance of motor vehicles, coal transportation, professional tax and Royalty allowances, commercial litigation in the Punjab and war insurance of immovable property.

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U. F.

THE HINDU MAHA SABHA

The Hindu Maha Sabha had arranged to hold its 23rd Session at Bhagalpur in Bihar during the Christmas Week. But the meeting was banned by the Government and about a thousand Hindus who defied the ban were arrested. Among those arrested were: Mr. V. D. Savarkar, the President-elect, Dr. Moonje, Dr. Shyam Prasad Mukerjee and other leaders.

Mr. Savarkar points out in his undelivered address that the militarization of Hindus forms the most important and urgent item on the immediate programme of the Maha Sabha.

Situated as we Hindus are at present, our best national interests demand that so far as India's defence is concerned, Hinduism must ally unhesitatingly in a spirit of responsive co-operation with the war effort of the Indian Government in so far as it is consistent with Hindu interests, by joining the Army, Navy and Air Forces in as large a number as possible and by securing entry into all ordnance, ammunition and war-craft factories. Militarization and industrialization of our Hindu nation ought to be the first two immediate objectives which we must pursue and secure to the best of our power, if we want to utilize the war situation in the world as effectively as possible to defend Hindu interests.

Japan's entry into the war exposed India directly and immediately to an attack by Britain's enemies, and consequently whether we like it or not, we shall have to defend our own hearths and homes against the ravages of war, and this can be done only by intensifying the Government's war effort to defend India.

Mr. Savarkar then defines what he calls the basic principles on which the Hindu Maha Sabha takes its stand. They are the independence of India, the indivisibility of India, the representation in proportion to population strength, public services to go by merit alone and the fundamental rights of freedom of worship, language, script etc. guaranteed to all citizens alike.

Mr. Savarkar contends

that the Hindu Maha Sabha sought not an inch more than what was legitimately due to it or than what it was willing to concede to all non-Hindu minorities in India in strict proportion to their population strengths. But it followed from this very just and legitimate conception of true nationalism that the Hindu Maha Sabha should not yield an inch of what was legitimately due to Hindus on the ground of national equity to Moslems or any one else simply because they did not happen to be Hindus. But the Congress, the Forward Bloc and all such organizations in India had sided against this conception of real nationality under the false notion of geographical nationality. They had set up an ideology and policy which raised betrayal of Hindu rights to

the pedestal of a patriotic virtue. To prove that they were above the communal level, the Hindu leaders and followers belonging to these organizations hesitated even to claim themselves as representatives of Hindus. So long as the electorates were divided communally, these bodies which called themselves national should refuse to stand for election on behalf of any of those communal electorates. They should wait till a real national electorate was ushered into being.

An official account of the banned Session in Bhagalpur has been issued by the General Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Maha Sabha which says that the 23rd Session was held on December 25 in the compound of Debi Babu's Dharmasala, Lala Narayan Dutt, Treasurer of the All-India Hindu Maha Sabha Working Committee, presided. About 2,000 delegates from all the provinces of India and a large number of visitors and volunteers attended the Session. The President, Lala Narayan Dutt, first described to the meeting the advice given to him regarding the Session by Dr. Moonje and other leaders.

Mr. Manoranjan Chowdhury, of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Maha Sabha, who came along with the Hon. Dr. S. P. Mukerjee from Calcutta, described to the audience how Dr. Mukerjee was intercepted and detained at Colgong that morning.

Among the resolutions passed was one moved by Mr. Manoranjan Chowdhury and supported by Mr. Ganpat Rai which stated:

This Session of the All-India Hindu Maha Sabha asserts the elementary and inalienable right of the Hindus to hold meetings and voice their feelings for the protection of their political, civic and religious rights and strongly condemns the action of the Bihar Government and the attitude of the Governor in banning the All-India Maha Sabha Session at Bhagalpur.

This Session further demands the immediate recall of the Governor of Bihar for wanton interference with the rights of the Hindus.

Another resolution condemned the action of the Bihar Government in arresting the leaders and demanded their immediate release. Yet another reiterated the Maha Sabha's policy regarding "the militarization and industrialisation of the country".

The Maha Sabha welcomed the new Bengal Cabinet and called upon the Hindus to support Dr. S. P. Mukerjee in his attempt to redress the grievances of the Bengal Hindus.

INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS

Inaugurating the fifth Indian History Congress at the Osmania University in Hyderabad, the Nawab of Chhatari spoke of the anxious and critical times in which we are living.

The historian of the future passing judgment on our days may obtain a better view and see also much more than we can notice. But his judgment on one aspect of what is happening around us, both within and abroad, may well be anticipated that we have never been closer to a graver menace for centuries and that there has never been greater need for unity in our ranks.

Nawab Mahdi Yar Jung Bahadur, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates. Messages from H. E. H. the Nizam and Sir Akbar Hydari, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and others were read.

Rao Sahab Prof. C. S. Srinivasachari, Head of the Department of History and Politics, Annamalai University, who presided over the Session, dealt with a very important and timely theme—the writing of a comprehensive history of India based on the recent researches of Indian scholars.

We are indeed bold enough to claim that at the present day Indian historical scholarship has attained a growth when we could dispense with the services of European scholars for most periods of Indian History. The Congress aims in its scheme at having the maximum number of Indian contributors, but does not exclude English and foreign scholars and historians who have made a special period or a particular subject, their life study, and we will most emphatically avoid requesting contributions from those who have shown any manner of racial, political or imperialistic bias.

He paid a tribute to the various scholars who have brought new light on different aspects of Indian history as revealed in the indigenous output of material in the shape of chronicles, diaries, genealogies, etc. This has to be co-ordinated with the official sources of knowledge.

The Professor struck the right note for the guidance of the historian when he observed that

every epoch has got to be studied not only in its physical and material aspect, but also in its cultural and moral life; and the main task of the historian is to make History as much of a reality as possible, concrete and alive. If History is to be fruitful, it should move away from its conventional background and get in a marked

manner into the lives of a truly international approach.

Neither narrowness nor bigotry should be allowed to vitiate the true story of India.

It is our duty, as Dr. Tara Chand has pertinently observed, to eliminate from historical scholarship the reproach that "the culture and life of India and its independent existence and growth should have been merely treated as an incident of British rule, nay, merely as an effect of the activities of the British Government, British political parties and British ideologies". This corrective to the general trend of our historiography should be particularly applied in the treatment of our latest period of reconstruction and renaissance extending from 1765 to the present day.

It is a lofty and worthy aim that the Rao Sahab put before the scholars assembled at the Session:

A history of India written with this aim and on the basic idea of the continuity of our national life will be "not merely the expression of our learning and scholarship but also of our faith in the destinies of our people". I would finally urge that it is of supreme importance that our minds should be guided by large ideas and generous principles and not moved by narrow and particularistic impulses; and the members of our Congress owe a duty to the country and they should not only make available fresh material hitherto unutilized but also try to subject the data at their disposal to the canons of true historical criticism.

A number of papers of historical interest touching different phases of Indian history were read at the Session. Nawab Ali Yar Jung Bahadur, Secretary, Constitutional Affairs of H. E. H. the Nizam's Government, in the course of his Sectional Presidential address on Deccan History, urged the establishment of a Special Chair of Deccan History in the Osmania University.

Presiding over a section of the Congress extending from the earliest times to 711 A.D., Prof. Hemchandra Raychaudhuri referred to the "quest for unity in a land of diverse colour and culture and attempts at its realisation in the domain of politics that marked the history of India during many a memorable epoch". Prof. J. F. Bruce of the Punjab University presiding over another section emphasised the importance of collecting and collating historical evidence by tapping original sources and not merely relying on second-hand information obtainable from translations of original works,

THE ORIENTAL CONFERENCE

The Oriental Conference, which held its eleventh Session at Hyderabad on December 20, was inaugurated by the Nawab of Chhatari with a message from H. E. Highness the Nizam. In his message, H. E. Highness stated

that there was abundant material for research in the Deccan and it had been the tradition of the Asaf Jah dynasty to encourage and foster all branches of learning and arts. The Osmania University had led the way in employing an Indian language as the medium of instruction up to the highest stage, even in purely technical and scientific subjects. It had thus not only contributed something to educational ideals of India, but had rendered some service to the cause of Oriental languages and learning.

The Nawab of Chhatari dwelt on the valuable contributions of the Osmania University and the State Archaeological Department to Oriental culture and learning through research and excavation and preservation of noteworthy movements. He cited the substantial patronage extended to various Muslim and Hindu institutions in India by the Nizam and stressed the fact that the bringing together of scholars and students of different countries and communities in a common assembly was an essentially unifying factor.

Mr. G. Yazdani, Director Archaeological Department, Hyderabad, in the course of his presidential address reviewed the past year's crop of books in Indian literature and archaeological findings and pointed out the difficulties of publishers due to war conditions.

With a view to placing the constitution of the Department on a scientific basis and raising the standard of archaeological research in India, the President suggested that there should be a clear division in the recruitment and training of officers for conservation, excavation and exploration work.

Again, in view of the growing national consciousness among the students of the country, it is desirable that there should be a liaison between the universities and the Archaeological Department, and the staff and students of Archaeology and Ancient History departments may be invited to watch and, if practicable, to participate according to their capacity in the excavation operations.

To work out the details of the above reforms, Mr. Yazdani suggested the appointment of a committee,

INDIAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas inaugurating the Silver Jubilee Session of the Indian Economic Conference and the fourth session of the Indian Political Science Conference, which held their joint sessions in Bombay, observed in the course of his address :

The pace of industrial production in India since the war broke out should be regarded more as a matter for admiration than for criticism.

Sir Purushottamdas referred to the importance of the work of the Conference when a great war is sweeping over the whole world.

An economic conference of this nature, in midst of such a world war, is best qualified to take an unbiased view as to the effect on India of the extraordinary conditions under which the world is living.

He emphasised that even those who were not politically-minded, considered a fundamental change in India's political position inevitable for the economic regeneration of India.

Mr. R. P. Masani, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming the Delegates, said that India was face to face with economic and political problems of far greater magnitude and importance than those confronted before, and hoped their discussions would provide material, ideas and concrete proposals helpful to statesmen and administrators in the adjustment of these problems.

Prof. N. P. Niyogi, of the Calcutta University, recalled that the association was ushered into existence at a time of storm and stress during the last great war.

By a curious irony of fate its Silver Jubilee, which falls in the present year, witnesses a fiercer conflict that spells ruin to all the ameliorative efforts of a quarter of a century.

The President made an appeal for the establishment of a definite contact between the professional economists and the world of trade, industry and commerce, which may serve as a basis for future co-operation and understanding.

The Professor referred to the paucity of statistical material in India and

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urged the need for contact with trade and businessmen.

Facilities to the teachers and scholars for the first-hand study of specific economic problems, supply of data not always available in official publications, opportunities for discussion of problems of national policy, particularly of measures on which Indian public opinion is divided—these are some of the desiderata for realistic investigation on dispassionate lines. It is here that the businessman can lend a helping hand to the economist.

Different aspects of rural co-operation were discussed at the Conference. Prof. S. Kesava Ayyangar read a paper on rural co-operation in India, and he was followed by Mr. V. R. Pillay (Travancore), Mr. B. Govinda Rao (Madras), Mr. R. Balakrishna (Mysore) and Mr. S. H. Atauliah (Punjab) who read papers on rural co-operation in the States and Provinces. Papers were read also by Mr. Anwar Iqbal Quereshi and Mr. Haricharan Ghosh.

POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

A suggestion that the President of the U. S. A. should be authorised (as was Wilson at the conclusion of the last war) to call an International Convention to formulate a constitution for the Federation of the World which should be submitted to each nation for ratification, was made by Dr. V. Shiva Ram, Professor and Head of the Politics Department of the Lucknow University, in the course of his presidential address at the fourth Session of the Indian Political Science Association, held at Bombay on December 31.

Dr. Shiva Ram asserted that thus and thus alone can civilisation be preserved and the crime of war may be suppressed by reducing to the ultimate minimum the possibility of its occurrence.

It is difficult at the present, said the speaker,

to be specific and to seek to define the best way to achieve a new world order. A new structure cannot be intelligently planned when the foundation area is still in eruption. We can only examine the principles involved, and we can tentatively explore how best to implement them. The Atlantic Charter

of August 15, 1941, may provide such a basis for discussion, but only a basis, as it excludes half the world's population.

Concluding, Dr. Shiva Ram said:

There is no alternative to the federation of all nations except endless war. No substitute for the Federation of the world can organise the international community on the basis of freedom and permanent peace. Even if continental, regional or ideological federations were attempted, the governments of these federations in an effort to make impregnable their separate defences would be obliged to maintain stupendously competitive armaments, thereby condemning humanity indefinitely to exhaustive taxation, compulsory military service and ultimate carnage, which history reveals to be not only criminally futile but positively avoidable through judicious foresight in federating all nations. No nation, not even Germany, should be excluded from membership in the Federation of the World that is willing to suppress its military, naval and air forces, retaining only a constabulary sufficient to police its territory and to maintain order within its jurisdiction, provided that the eligible voters of that nation are permitted the free expression of their opinions at the polls. Mankind must pool its resources of defence if civilisation is to endure.

HINDI SAHITYA SAMMELAN

"I maintain that Hindi and Urdu are not identical; they differ in idiom, in metrical laws, in imagery, in symbolism, in atmosphere, in their total impression. Whoever considers the two to be without difference must have a marvellous capacity for self-deception. I think any attempt to bring about a mixture between Hindi and Urdu will mean the creation of an artificial language which will not be acceptable to the lovers of either and will result in linguistic and literary chaos," so said Professor Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, in the course of his presidential address at the 30th Session of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, held at Abohar, Punjab, on the 27th December. He added that "the only language that has any prospect of becoming an All-India language is that which is of Sanskrit origin and has a large admixture of Sanskrit words".

THE INDIAN REVIEW

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

In declaring open the 29th Session of the Indian Science Congress at Baroda on January 1, His Highness the Gaekwar pointed out how mechanical inventions of the last hundred years have revolutionised the world. He paid a tribute to Indian Scientists who have made very useful and valuable researches in Applied Chemistry. His Highness urged the need for co-ordination and said:

A Congress of this type can bring about greater co-ordination of the work carried on in different branches. "Society, science and your efforts are one indivisible whole." All your efforts are directed towards one end, and it is, as Bacon says, "the relief of man's estate." It is our earnest hope that Science will be an instrument in our hands for bettering the lot of humanity.

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Dewan, in his welcome address refuted the notion that Scientists are responsible for the increasing horrors of war and observed that the scientist cannot be blamed for the application of the discoveries of science to war. But the world must be saved from this danger. The question how this is to be done is agitating earnest minds and thinkers approaching it from different standpoints have arrived at more or less identical conclusions.

The cause is elsewhere. It is due to the persistent propaganda that had been carried on in dictator countries attacking all accepted values in science, morals and religion, with the result that millions are prepared to lay down their lives for false ideals. The evil thus calls for not less of science but more of science—science in the broadest sense of the world, embracing the social sciences, those dealing with human relations—and also philosophy—all working with a common aim and a sense of unity and viewing life as a whole.

Mr. D. N. Wadia, who presided over the Congress, dealing with the same subject, said:

The wreckage made possible by the abuse of science is an evanescent phase in the history of nations and is to be compared to the havoc of earthquakes and tornadoes.

Science will, without doubt, rebuild the damaged world on better foundations and reintegrate the stricken people to a new and more secure life; and the tempo of the resulting reconstruction will be no less striking.

"Signs of the new world order," he went on to say, are dimly apparent on the horizon. A new democracy—the democracy of science and altruistic knowledge—is emerging, pledged to do away with the "war potential" from human society.

Speaking on the progress of Science in India, he said:

In a country whose social structure is based on traditional religion and custom, it is inevitable that there should be some time-lag between the march of science and its ultimate effect on the popular welfare. This is the gap between the static India that is passing and the dynamic India that is visualized by the scientists, but the small advances that are already visible ought to fill us with new hope and encouragement.

Mr. Wadia spoke of the new era of international co-operation and pointed out that the industrial co-operation brought about by the Eastern Group Supply Conference at Delhi should lead to a new era of International co-ordination.

The Congress then divided itself into various sections under separate Presidents. Papers on Scientific subjects were read at the sectional meetings. Mr. Wadia himself reading a paper on "The making of India" which is a review of some aspects of the Geological structure of India. Discussions in the various sectional gatherings centred round the important question of "the application of Science to national welfare in all its aspects".

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THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE

H. H. the Gaekwar of Baroda opened the fifth Session of the Indian Statistical Conference at the Baroda College on January 8. "In India," said His Highness, "we suffer from a lack of statistics."

There are many topics of importance on which we have no dependable information. We require more accurate and complete information regarding production by large, small and cottage industries, internal and external trade, and the yield and movement of capital with a view to planning out a policy of industrialisation. To re-plan agriculture we should have more complete statistics of crops and subsidiary industries.

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, the Dewan, welcoming the delegates, observed:

Agriculture in our country is an extensive terrain which can be explored and mapped out by statisticians in collaboration with other scientists. We require greater accuracy in the collection of its basic facts by a wider use of scientific analysis in their interpretation.

Sir Krishnamachari concluded by observing that we have in the service of statistics a powerful engine to help our judgment and appreciation of the facts of life. But we must not ignore the human factor in interpreting them.

Sir T. Vijayaraghava Acharya, who presided over the Session, also referred to the need for improving agricultural statistics.

What interests the trades most is the forecast of the commercial crops. The forecasts are quite as valuable to the farmer, but the Indian farmer is not articulate. The forecasts have a considerable influence in determining prices. If a crop is overestimated, the prices fall and the farmer does not get his proper price. If the crop is underestimated, prices rise and the consumer has to pay more than the proper price.

There is need for adequate staff to do the work connected with village statistics. For the improvement of the figures reported by the Revenue Department is dependent on a number of reforms namely, (1) the survey of cultivated land in unsurveyed tracts of India; (2) the provision of village officers in parts of India where no village staff exists; (3) the improvement of the quality of the village staff where a village staff does exist.

In large parts of India, both in British and State territory, there is no village staff and the Police do the work connected with village statistics. The figures supplied are pure guesses and not even intelligent guesses at that.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Seventh Session of the Indian Academy of Sciences was inaugurated at Nagpur by Mr. T. J. Kedar, Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University on December 24.

Mr. Kedar, in his address, said that

the progress the Academy had achieved and the international recognition it had won in a short period should be a matter for legitimate pride for its founders in particular and Indian science in general. The problem of the reconstruction of civilisation after the war should tax all the ingenuity and resources of science.

Sir C. V. Raman, who presided over the Session, spoke on the co-ordination of research and the role of science academies.

The Academies of Science abroad have related that they serve the interests of science best, when they also undertake direct participation in research work of exceptional importance. In the Memorandum of the Association of the Indian Academy of Sciences, such participation in research activities is specifically provided for. Circumstances have arisen which have made it desirable that steps should be taken to implement this provision in the constitution of the Academy.

He then gave a scientific discourse on "New Concepts of the Solid State".

Under the auspices of the Academy a symposium on the industrial development of C. P. and Berar was held on the 26th in the College of Science. It was inaugurated by Mr. K. D. Guha, Director of Industries. Papers were read on the occasion on the following subjects:—

"Hydro-electric Power and Its Scope in C. P. and Berar" by Mr. K. R. Minocha.

Possibilities of a New Industry on Linseed fibre in the Central Provinces and Berar," by Dr. R. H. Richharia.

Mr. K. P. Sagreiya, Silviculturist, gave a talk on "The Fodder and Grazing resources of C. P. and Berar and their better utilisation."

INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL CONGRESS

"That philosophy must face from time to time the practical problems of life and seek to supply these in search of guidance, not only doubts which will paralyse life, but certainties on which they can regulate their conduct is, I believe in the best tradition of our own thought in India," observed Mr. G. C. Chatterjee of Calcutta University in course of his Presidential address to the Indian Philosophical Congress held at Aligarh on December 21.

Mr. Chatterjee, proceeding, defined the central problem of today as to supply a meaning to life, to define the aim or purpose for which we live and to indicate the manner in which that purpose is to be realised.

The solution of this difficult problem lies in his opinion neither in orthodox religion, nor in Absolute Idealism, nor in non-attachment, nor in non-violence. What he would call the doctrine of values, was the proper solution. Criticising the creed of non-violence evolved by Mahatma Gandhi out of the writings of Thoreau and Tolstoy, Mr. Chatterjee said, "Non-violence appears to me to be too negative a creed to provide any guidance for actual life."

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Welcoming the delegates to the 16th Session of the All-India Women's Conference at Coimbatore, the Yuvaraj of Puthaparam declared that Indian women do not claim any special privileges as the so-called weaker-sex.

"We claim the same rights and privileges which our comrades, the men, claim for himself. I even feel that it cannot be said that women have no place in the Army."

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, former Minister of the U. P. Government, in her Presidential address took her stand on the creed of non-violence. She asked:

"Are we going to join the group that by their acquiescence make wars possible? Shall we bear arms only that they may murder other women's sons and help to maintain a system which stands self-condemned? Or shall we raise our united voice in favour of a brave new world where human life and human liberty receive the respect which is their due, where progress and security are within the grasp of each individual? The choice is before us. The future, not for women only but for humanity as well, is what the women of today make of it."

Mrs. Pandit urged the co-ordination of all women's organizations under some federal scheme.

THE PLIGHT OF THE PHILIPPINES

BY MR. ST. Nihal Singh

HOW the East, that Westerns delight in describing as "slow-moving", rushes headlong towards its destiny!

Not quite fifteen years ago I sat in a neatly appointed, spacious office in Manila. Opposite me, across a highly polished table sat one of the most powerful politicians of the Philippines. The talk turned to the movement for sweeping independence that then was sweeping across the cities and even the villages in the multitude of islands and islets constituting that Archipelago in the Extreme East.

I, who had just come to Manila after an extended tour through North America, said to this leader: "Some of the Americans with whom I have been talking wondered

if people in this Archipelago realized the temptation that their islands are to a Power not very far from here."

"As to that," calmly replied my Filipino *ris-*a-tis**, do these good people over there think that the position of these islands has been shifted by us since the Americans declared for Filipino independence? The Philippines, so far as my information goes, remain fixed in the Pacific Ocean in precisely the same position as that in which they were planted by Providence at the beginning of creation. The geographical facts remain unaltered.

"Independence was promised us. It is our birthright. We must have it. We will have it."

I

Playing the lone hand. Thus did Americans, in the expressive phraseology they employ, characterize this policy.

The Filipino politicians are, as a rule, shrewd. Many of them have received their higher education in the United States of America. Even those who have not crossed the Pacific Ocean to the land of the Stars and Stripes have come in contact with Americans while at school, in official life, or in business. They, therefore, understand the American psychology.

It was not surprising, therefore, that some Filipinos began to divide American supporters of Philippine independence into two categories. The first list comprehended "democrats" in the true sense of the word—men and women with high ideals who were genuinely desirous of according full freedom to the Filipinos. The second category consists of Americans who, in the fulfilment of the independence pledge to Filipinos, saw an opportunity to promote certain American enterprises.

Two interests in particular in the United States of America backed the independence movement in the Archipelago. These were the producers of tobacco and sugar.

The truth was that they did not like the entry of similar commodities from the Philippines into American ports under favourable terms. Immediately these islands in the Pacific ceased to be integrated into the American system, these commodities could be treated as foreign products and subjected to full customs duty. So they thought. So they fondly hoped.

II

These two industries, however, happen to be of the first importance in the Archipelago. The terms upon which tobacco and sugar were permitted to enter into one of the wealthiest markets of the world conduced to Filipino prosperity. No Filipino patriot, however great a lover of freedom he might be, could in consequence face with equanimity the prospect of paying for freedom the price that these American interests were determined to exact.

Then, too, there was the question of defence. Under the arrangement then existing, the United States footed the bill and left the taxes raised in the Islands to be expended upon works and services of utility to the Filipinos.

Would Americans, after freeing the Philippines, continue this arrangement? If so, for how long?

III

For a time a game of political bluff was played by both sides. Filipinos had learnt it from Americans. They were as expert at it as were their masters.

Fortunately, before the end of the last decade, both parties had seen the wisdom of coming to an understanding. In virtue of it, Filipinos received the right to manage their own affairs in something like the way Canada does hers. A High Commissioner sent out from Washington, D. C., formed a link between the two countries.

Through goodwill, the United States secured an advance base for safeguarding their large and ever expanding interests in the Pacific region. The arrangements made in this connection were particularly happy. They lacked any suggestion that would hurt the Filipino national dignity. Defence at the same time was not permitted to impose a burden upon Filipino finances. Americans cheerfully agreed to pay for the advantages that, through Filipino co-operation, the establishment of a powerful base in that corner of the Extreme East would give them.

Manuel Quezon, through whose capable and energetic leadership this policy of standing together had been worked out and put into effect, was elected the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth. Despite the ever-growing international tension in this sphere, the arrangement endured. Even the precipitation of the crisis failed to shake it.

Subsequent to the Japanese attack, Quezon has been re-elected to a second term of office. He is, at the moment of writing, carrying on administration from an undisclosed place.

How fast moves the East, still sleepy in the estimation of standstill Westerners!

MAHADEV GOVIND RANADE

THE Birth Centenary of Ranade is an event of national significance. For, Ranade touched the nation's life at many points. Judge, historian, philosopher, politician, economist and social reformer, Ranade was a pioneer in many departments of public life. In fact, it was Ranade who inspired organised national activity, which made the National Congress and the Social and Industrial Conferences possible. Ranade represented progressive thought in the country in the same way as Ram Mohan Roy did in an earlier generation. In depth and amplitude of mind and versatility of interests, Ranade closely resembled Ram Mohan whose passion for the motherland and its heritage he shared in equal measure.

Ranade was a patriot who inspired many young men who came in contact with him with a devotion akin to a religious faith. For, above all, he was a thinker and teacher just in the same way as John Stuart Mill was a thinker and teacher of his generation in England. Even as Mill found in Morley an eloquent expositor of his teachings, Ranade found in Gokhale an apt disciple who carried the message of the master far and wide. It is extraordinary how very like Mill was Ranade in temperament as in interests. Both had the same passion for truth and the same aptitude for disinterested service to their fellow-men. History, literature, politics, economics, the reform of society, these formed the stuff of their study and devotion.

In private life, Ranade was a picture of patience and gentleness, and even his reforming zeal was tempered by a spirit of kindness and tolerance. There may be heroes who march triumphantly to the call of the ideal, but they are mostly exacting, pitiless to others as for themselves, not unoften cruel and hard of heart. Ranade was made of another stuff and would rather stoop to steady his march in his effort to carry the weak and the erring and the slow-footed. Thus his method of reform, while carrying the bulk of the people with him, discounted break with the past and

ensued continuity of tradition. He believed in slow work but sure, even as twilight gently melts into the dawn without a fanfare of trumpets.

Indian renaissance, its political, economic and social ideas bear the unmistakable impress of Ranade's powerful personality and the influence of his teachings. "Moderates" and "Extremists" are terms of a later date, but Ranade was a Liberal in the widest sense of that word. As a nationalist, he would put no limits to the aspirations of his countrymen, though like all Victorians he was wont to conceive of the British connection as something in the nature of a special act of beneficence on the part of Providence. In a passage vivid with the bright colours of a radiant optimism, Ranade pictures the goal of Britain's mission in India and the fulfilment of our aspirations. It would do our souls good to recall the splendid vision:

With a liberated manhood, with buoyant hope, with a faith that never shirks duty, with a sense of justice that deals fairly to all, with unclouded intellect and powers fully cultivated, and, lastly, with a love that overleaps all bounds, renovated India will take her proper rank among the nations of the world and be the master of the situation and of her own destiny. This is the goal to be reached—this is the promised land. Happy are they who see it in distant vision; happier they who are permitted to work and clear the way on to it; happiest they who live to see it with their eyes and tread upon the holy soil once more.

"He knew all," said Tilak, "he saw all the past, the present and the future and out of the prevailing darkness of their position, he led his countrymen the path to light." This is high praise and well deserved from one who was himself a patriot and scholar of no mean standing. Ranade's philosophy of life and his creed of action are still an abiding possession, thanks to the labours of his chosen disciples the greatest of whom, Gokhale, said with characteristic faith in the future of this country:

We can humbly trust that He who gave Mr. Ranade to this nation, may give another like him in the fullness of time. Meanwhile it is our duty to cherish his name, treasure up his example and be true to his teachings in his faith that a nation that has produced a Ranade need not despair of its future.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The A.I.C.C.'s Lead

QUITE as expected the All-India Congress Committee, which met at Wardha in the middle of last month, endorsed the Bardoli decision of the Congress Working Committee by a sweeping majority. It was no doubt a victory for Mr. C. Rajagopalachari and those of his way of thinking on the lines of his Convocation address at Lucknow. C. R., of course, put the case with skilful eloquence and had carefully prepared the ground. With Gandhiji's blessings—whatever may be his personal predilections—and his plain advice to Congressmen to support the Resolution, the result was a foregone conclusion. The burden of the resolution, as explained by Rajaji, was that it only marked a continuation of the Congress policy hitherto pursued and that it in no way deviated from the stand the Congress took in regard to the question of a political settlement immediately after the commencement of the war. But it was made plain that the Congress was prepared to accept freedom with its concomitant responsibilities—particularly in the matter of Defence even at the risk of giving up its adherence to the principle of non-violence. Said Mr. Rajagopalachari:

Our co-operation or non co-operation remains exactly as it was when we declared our attitude on the issue at the beginning of the war. But it is a fundamental principle of a non-violent struggle, that we must ever be ready for a settlement.

Referring to the parliamentary programme, Mr. Rajagopalachari said:

There is a legend that I am all for a parliamentary programme. You should not make the mistake that, when we talk of parliamentary programme, we are after mere office. It is a matter of expediency. Supposing the Central Government is placed in my hand, then I would take it. But if to-day the Madras Government is given to me without control of the Centre, then I would not touch it. Under the present conditions, there is no sense in coming to office in the provinces. Parliamentary programme without real power, therefore, need not be discussed at all at the present moment. It is out of the question.

It is now for the Government to make the next move to which the country is looking with interest.

Vested Interests in India

We can quite understand the deep disappointment in industrial circles following the disturbing report that foreign interests have been allowed to start a new automobile plant in Sind. It is common knowledge that the India Government were opposing the starting of an Indian automobile manufacturing factory on the ground that the starting of a new motor plant would lead to diversion of skilled labour, thus impeding the war effort. Sir Visvesvaraya and Mr. Walchand Hirachand have made gigantic efforts to move the Government to accord them the necessary facilities to start this key industry with indigenous capital and labour. They were turned down. Now that a foreign interest has come forward to promote the same industry, all the difficulties which the Government imagined seem to have melted away. Surely this is discrimination with a vengeance.

"The whole thing," says Jawaharlal, "is a fantastic illustration of the hold of foreign vested interests. In spite of all these perils and disasters of war, the British policy is still clinging to its old methods of co-operation. The only answer can be that before we think of co-operation, they will have to think of 'Pack up and go'."

The Benares Hindu University

We congratulate the Benares Hindu University on its Silver Jubilee, which was celebrated the other day amidst scenes of great splendour and enthusiasm. It is well known that it was Dr. Besant's Central Hindu College that served as the nucleus of this University. The name of Pandit Malaviya is irrevocably linked with this great institution and it must have been a proud day for him to have lived to see the fruition of his dream and indefatigable labours. The veteran Pandit is 81 and he still talks of collecting five more crores for the good cause he has made his own. It was singularly fortunate too that in the words of Sir Radhakrishnan, the eloquent Vice-Chancellor, that "the most powerful existing adversary of the power-torn and shattered world was available for the Jubilee in the person of Mahatma Gandhi, the light of whose lamp would continue to shine through time and space".

INDIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 1942]

Mr. Churchill's Opportunity in India

It is a pity that Mr. Churchill, the Prime Minister, still thinks of India in the same terms as he was taught to think of her when he was an insignificant Cavalry Officer in Bangalore 40 years ago, picking up his knowledge of our people from barrack rooms and Kipling's stories. A realist like Churchill ought to be able to see what Japan's menace to the Far East means. Mr. Churchill has evidently left the Indian question to the Minister in charge. But the times are critical and demand the initiative and imaginative statesmanship of one who could dare much and conquer. Plainly the August offer has ceased to work and a Minister who harps upon it, in season and out, is a pitiful antediluvian. There is no ambiguity as to what exactly Indians want. Congressmen, Liberals, Maha Sabhites, Muslim Leaguers—all alike demand the same thing. Mr. N. M. Joshi's resolution recommending the establishment of a national government at the Centre responsible to the Legislature marks the minimum requirement of the country. It is also the pith of the Sapru memorandum to Mr. Churchill. If only Mr. Churchill will grasp the situation and what it means to rally the whole nation of 400 millions to throw their whole weight in the scale—what a difference it would make! The responsibility must be thrown on the citizens who are not only willing but anxious to take up the burden of defence. There is the opportunity of a lifetime for Mr. Churchill. Will he grasp it and make a gesture? Trust begets trust. Only a free people can fight in the spirit of Englishmen fighting for their homeland. A free India will save herself and save the Empire threatened with foes on all sides!

Even in his great speech in the House of Commons asking for a vote of confidence in his government, Mr. Churchill misses what C. R. used to call "the grand strategy of the war". He concedes the gravity of the peril in the Pacific. He does not under-rate the strength of Japan. He is sagacious enough to realise that Britain would have been ruined if she had started scattering her forces over the immense seas of the Far East exposed to the Japanese menace. He admits that Britain cannot be equally strong in

all centres simultaneously and that the imperial forces are not adequate to meet the pressure from the East as well as the West. What then is the obvious lesson but to make each unit self-sufficient and responsible for its defence? It is curious, in all his rambling defence of an admittedly difficult situation he does not realise this simple truth. Surely as Mr. S. N. Davis observed in the Commons debate:

One need not be an expert in upper strategy to see that many of the blunders in the Far East can be attributed to our attitude towards India. Why not let these people defend their own country?

A happy solution of the complex Indian situation, as Mr. Pethick-Lawrence pointed out on the same occasion, is in itself "a vital part of the war effort",

and the Prime Minister should convey to the Indian people and politicians that there was real intention on the part of all sections of this country to confer real self-governing Dominion Status on India at the end of the war.

Sir Akbar Hydari

The sudden and unexpected death of Sir Akbar Hydari has removed from our midst one of the elder politicians of the country. Sir Akbar had a remarkable career having filled with distinction positions of power and responsibility. Having made his mark in the Finance Department, he was called to the service of H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad, where he found exceptional opportunities for the exercise of his talents as educationist, financier and administrator. Sir Akbar has played a notable part in the modernisation of Hyderabad and the Osmania University remains as a tangible proof of his constructive statesmanship. His acceptance of the newly created office of Member for Information in the Government of India marked a departure fraught with great possibilities for the country and it is deeply to be deplored that he should have been cut away at the threshold of a rich and promising career. To his new office, Sir Akbar brought a mind rich in knowledge, ripened by administrative experience and adapted to tackle big problems with tact and quiet efficiency.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BY "CHRONICLER"

Australia's Appeal to Britain

THE Japanese landed in New Guinea and the Solomon Island area on the 28rd January. They had already occupied Rabaul which is an excellent base of operation for them. Following a Cabinet meeting, the Australian Minister of Supplies, Mr. J. Beasley made this statement

The people of Britain must look the Empire squarely in the face. The battle that is on in the Pacific today is a fight for the continuance of the British Empire. Getting control of Malaya the Japanese can turn westward to India and eastward to Australia.

The Japanese Navy is the strongest Axis naval force in the world. If the Battle of the Pacific is won, we can beat the Japanese Navy here. If the Battle of the Pacific is lost, the Japanese Navy is ready for service in the Atlantic.

We, in Australia have been asked to accept in complete faith that the British Navy would stand between us and Asia. The danger is here, Britain today must strain the whole of her resources to see that the steel and iron necessary to turn back the southward drive of Japan reach Malaya without delay. This is essential not from the view-point of Australia alone, but from that of the British Empire as a whole.

U Saw, Premier of Burma

U Saw, Premier of Burma, has been detained by the British Government. A statement issued from No. 10, Downing Street, on January 18, says:

From reports received about U Saw's movements after his Goodwill Mission to this country, it has come to the knowledge of His Majesty's Government that he has been in contact with the Japanese authorities since the outbreak of war with Japan. This fact has been confirmed by his own admission. His Majesty's Government have accordingly been compelled to detain him and it will not be possible to permit him to return to Burma.

U Saw has been succeeded by the Acting Premier, Sir Paw Tun. U Saw returned a disappointed man, failing to obtain an unequivocal declaration on the future status of Burma. But his countrymen, says an up-country paper, will find it difficult to believe that that man with his unquestionable patriotism turned traitor to his country overnight. The paper also refers to the detention of Dr. Ba Maw, ex-Premier of Burma, and says: "These facts lend themselves to easy exploitation by the Tokyo radio and the Goebbels Department."

The Pacific War

The dissatisfaction felt in Chinese quarters over statements in London and Washington suggesting a tendency to minimise the importance of the Pacific War is reflected in the official *Central Daily News*. It says:

Today, in Europe, the Allies have command of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean and this will result in the ultimate defeat of Germany. On the other hand, Japan has complete command in the southwest Pacific.

If this situation is permitted to continue, not only will the fate of Singapore become dubious, but it is questionable whether the Allies will be able to hold Burma and the Dutch East Indies.

Britain and the United States can regain supremacy in the south western Pacific. The only question is whether they want to do so and whether they regard it as essential to their strategy.

A similar feeling is wide-spread in Australia, whose Premier, Mr. Curtin, urges further voice in war strategy.

War Criminals

Condemning the execution of hostages in France, Mr. Churchill declared in October: "Retribution for these crimes must henceforward take its place amongst the major purposes of the war." In London, on Tuesday the 18th January, representatives of nine European countries occupied by the Germans and their allies and associates formally adopted this war aim, with the concurrence of representatives of Britain, the United States, Russia and China.

(a) Those guilty and responsible, whatever their nationality, are sought for and handed over to justice and judged.

(b) That the sentences pronounced are carried out.

General Tojo's Four Principles

General Tojo, the Japanese Prime Minister, addressing the General Assembly of the House of Representatives, enunciated four principles for the government and control of territories occupied by the Japanese.

The principles were: (1) To assure the necessary resources for the prosecution of the war. (2) Prohibition of export of raw material from countries in the South Pacific to hostile countries. (3) To assure the victualling of local Japanese forces. (4) To invite foreign undertakings to collaborate with Japan.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

—10:—

Jan. 1. Chinese troops share the defence of Burma.

—Manila falls.

Jan. 2. Anti-Axis powers sign a joint declaration at Washington.

Jan. 3. Gen. Wavell assumes unified allied command in the Far East.

—Liberal leaders cable to British Premier to set up a truly National Government.

Jan. 4. Japanese launch frontal drive in Malaya.

—Japs raid Australian aerodrome.

Jan. 5. Mr. Savarkar and other Mahasabha prisoners are released.

—H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore is welcomed in Trivandrum.

Jan. 6. In the U. S. Congress, President Roosevelt reiterates Allies' objective in the war.

—Sir Sikander Hayat Khan, Premier of the Punjab, proceeds to Middle East.

Jan. 7. Gandhiji announces his decision to re-start the *Harijan* and his other weeklies.

Jan. 8. Sir Akbar Hydari passes away.

Jan. 9. The Rt. Hon. Sastri unveils a portrait of Mr. K. Srinivasan, Editor of the *Hindu*, in the Gokhale Hall, Madras.

Jan. 10. Russians occupy Balaclava.

—Mr. Duff-Cooper returns to England.

Jan. 11. Japanese invade Netherlands East Indies.

Jan. 12. Kuala Lumpur is evacuated.

—Gen. Wavell takes charge of his command in the Netherlands East Indies.

Jan. 13. Surrender of Tarakan garrison in Dutch Indies.

Jan. 14. Congress Working Committee decides against holding a session of the Congress this year.

Jan. 15. All-India Congress Committee meets at Wardha and adopts the Bardoli resolution.

Jan. 16. Gen. Sir Alan Hartley is appointed Commander-in-Chief in India.

—Death of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught.

Jan. 17. Mr. Churchill returns to England; absolute Anglo-American accord announced.

Jan. 18. Centenary of Ranade's birth celebrated throughout India.

Jan. 19. Burmese Premier, U. Saw, is detained on confession of contact with Japs.

Jan. 20. Sir Paw Tun forms new Government.

—Allied battleships arrive in Singapore.

Jan. 21. Mahatma Gandhi addresses Silver Jubilee Convocation of the Benares Hindu University.

—Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, announces his resignation.

Jan. 22. Japanese attack New Guinea.

—Gen. Tojo enunciates four principles.

—Enemy action in the Bay of Bengal.

Jan. 23. Japanese land in New Guinea and Solomon Isle areas.

Jan. 24. Russians smash through Smolensk-Leningrad front.

Jan. 25. Mr. Churchill promises to meet Australia's special needs.

—Thailand declares war on Britain and U. S. A.

Jan. 26. American troops arrive in Northern Ireland.

—Independence Day celebrated in India.

Jan. 27. Reviewing the war in the Commons, Mr. Churchill rejects Cabinet changes and asks for a vote of confidence.

Jan. 28. Bengal Hindu Maha Sabha adopts a resolution, urging that Indian soldiers abroad be brought back for defence of India.

Jan. 29. The Commons approve the vote of confidence by 464 to one.

—Japanese troops land on west coast of Borneo.

Jan. 30. Dog-fights in Rangoon skies.



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

INDIA AS DESCRIBED IN EARLY TEXTS OF BUDDHISM AND JAINISM. By Dr. Bimala Churn Law. Luzac & Co., London.

Dr. Bimala Churn Law is well known to Indologists through his valuable contributions to our knowledge of ancient history of India by as many as sixteen works and in the present volume under review, he gives a picture of India as gleaned largely through the early texts of Buddhism and Jainism written in Pali and Ardha Magadhi. He has also made use of the Brahminical literature in the treatment of the subject.

The book consists of five chapters dealing with Geography, Kings and Peoples, Social life and economic conditions, Religion and Education and learning in ancient India.

The people are said to have been divided into diverse groups of worshippers: Brahminical, Buddhist and Jain. Hermit life was common and sometimes congregational. Among the hermits were: Parivrajakas, Tapasas and Ajivakas. People believed in *paraloka* of life hereafter and that formed the doctrinal basis of various stories of heaven and hell. At the time of the rise of Jainism and Buddhism, India was the leading country in learning.

The book contains a good bibliography and a useful index.

GANDHI SERIES: "TO THE STUDENTS" AND "TO THE WOMEN." Edited by Anand T. Hingorani. Kitabistan, Allahabad.

The Gandhi series published by Kitabistan deals with varied topics under suitable headings. The first of the series is a collection of articles and addresses touching students and student life. The second deals with women, their place in national life, their hopes and aspirations. They are as usual full of sage counsel and practical guidance. Every aspect of student life and the life of our women is dealt with in these collections in a spirit of kindness and helpfulness. As might be expected, they contain moral instruction of the highest order couched in words of friendly exhortation. The series is got up in fine style.

THE FOUNDATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. By P. H. Winfield. Cambridge University Press.

This book may be described as a handbook of International Law for the layman. It deals with the main topics of International Law which are usually dealt with in text-books on the subject, such as the nature, sources and history of International Law, peace, war, and neutrality. Written within the limits of 125 pages of small size, it cannot be expected to be sufficiently full or technical for the lawyer. One should not look in this book for a detailed exposition of the technicalities of the law of prize courts or the doctrine of continuous voyage and things of that kind; but it gives a succinct and interesting account of the general law which, for instance, would be sufficient to enable an ordinary citizen to recognise the gross breaches of International Law, especially in regard to methods of warfare of which the Axis powers have been guilty, and even to appreciate the propriety of such action as the search of the Altmark by the British Naval authorities in Norwegian territorial waters on the 11th February 1940. The last chapter deals with the future of International Law and contains some suggestions for making International Law more efficient for the purpose of preventing future wars.

PANCHAYATS IN THE PUNJAB. By M. Azim Hussain, B.A. (Cantab), BAR-AT-LAW, I.C.S. Feroz & Sons, Lahore.

This is a pamphlet of 62 pages containing a description of the past history and present condition of the panchayats in the Panjab. The author who is a member of the I. C. S., and the Director of Panchayats in that province, naturally speaks with first-hand knowledge. He commends the recent Punjab Village Panchayat Act 1939, as having given valuable powers to village panchayats, and having set up an organization of panchayat officers for doing missionary work under it,

SOME SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGES: A RE-SURVEY. By P. J. Thomas and K. C. Ramakrishnan. University of Madras.

The work under review embodies the results of a re-survey of some South Indian Villages conducted by the Economics Department of the Madras University in the year 1936-37.

The findings of this enquiry give a broad confirmation of the general conclusions regarding Indian Economic life arrived at through economic analysis and independently of such enquiries. The area under cultivation in these villages has not extended with the increase in population though there is no indication that the food supply has not kept pace with the growth in numbers. Sub-division and fragmentation have increased; there is very little scope for the extension of cultivation, land improvement has been the exception and not the rule, there has been an increase in the number of landless agricultural labourers and in absentee landlordism, rural debt remains as acute as ever. Village industries have had to capitulate and sanitation remains still bad enough.

There are some improvements to record against this mighty deterioration. The record of twenty years, however, makes highly depressing reading.

The enquiry is as much a welcome addition to our knowledge of Indian Rural Economics as it is a reflection on the economic policy of the State.

SANKARACHARYA. By Prof. S. Suryanarayana Sastri. G. A. Natesan & Co., Madras. As. 12.

The philosophy of Sankara has influenced world thought to a considerable degree. The German thinkers of the past: Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, etc., the American thinkers: Emerson, Thoreau and Walt Whitman, the Irish poets: A. E., G. W. Russell and Moore have all been influenced to a very great extent by the central tenets of Sankara's philosophy.

Prof. S. S. Suryanarayana Sastri's book on *Sankaracharya* is the best short account of the life and teachings of Sankara in English we have today. Within a short compass of 128 pages, he has given us all the fundamental tenets of Advaita. The biographical sketch of Sankara is at once discerning and devout. The historical evidence is examined in fixing the date. A complete account of the works of Sankara and their authenticity is discussed in the second chapter. In the third section we are treated to an account of the philosophy of Sankara. The exposition is original and follows closely the Sankara's commentary on the first four sutras of *Badarayana*.

There is a great deal of freshness in his interpretation of Sankara. He breaks new ground. He does not blindly follow tradition nor recklessly repudiate scriptural statements.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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RUDRA-SIVA. Dr. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar Lectures, 1939-40. By Dr. N. Venkataramanayya, M.A. University of Madras. Rs. 5.

THE LAND OF THE SOVIETS: A Symposium Edited by Hirendranath Mukerjee and S. K. Acharyya. Friends of the Soviet Union, 249 Bowbazar St., Calcutta.

THE LAW OF WAR AND PEACE IN ISLAM. By Majid Khadduri. Ph.D. Luzac & Co., London.

ARABICA AND ISLAMICA. By U. Waynflete Luzac & Co., London.

I WAS A PRISONER. By R. R. Dalwai. The Madras Publishers, Sovashram, Triplicane. As. 4.

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1941. VOL. XVII, BARODA. By Satya Vrata Mukerjee, Baroda State Press. Rs. 6.

DAWN AND OTHER POEMS. By K. P. Appaji Rao. P. O. Puthur (South Kanara District).

INDIAN STATES AND THE INCOME-TAX. By Tax Payer. Hindustan Times Press, New Delhi.

HISTORICAL METHOD IN RELATION TO PROBLEMS OF SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY. By Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, M.A. University of Madras. Re. 1-12.

SRI BHAGAVAD GITA-745 SHLOKAS. Edited by Raj-veidya Jivaram Kalidas Shastri. Published by the Rasachala Aushadhashram, Gondal, Kathiawad.

PROGRESS REPORT ON FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR. Kashmir Govt. Press, Jammu.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



THE FRANCHISE IN INDIA

The present system of franchise has been in operation during the last 20 years or thereabouts that have passed since the right to elect representatives to Legislative Councils and Assemblies has been exercised on a large scale. Discussing the scope and defects of this system from past experience, Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy points out ways in which it could be improved upon. He finds that on an average, not counting exceptional cases, only 50 per cent. of the electors go to the polls. This does not represent adequate public interest in civic affairs, but apart from this apathy, there is corruption, he says, in the *New Review* for December.

by way of money gifts or promises of administrative favours to individual voters that has been made possible by this wide extension of the franchise. Corruption by way of appeals to passions like hatred of the present system of rule—the Indian villager like the Irishman has always been 'agin' Government,—to the possibility of a new heaven on earth in which there would be no taxes to pay, to the prejudice of Brahminphobia, to the mystical name of Mahatma Gandhi, has spread rampant during recent elections in India. 'Vote for Mahatma Gandhi' proved a good election cry to the party that made use of it. But it was hardly a political argument—it was just the kind of appeal which would go home to a people that worshipped asceticism and renunciation, and that had received no political instruction that would have helped them to take a rational view of rival policies and parties.

The political backwardness of the voter is not the only charge against the present franchise system. The writer is convinced that party bosses and aspirants to dictatorship have taken advantage of his backwardness.

The masses have been found to be played on easier than a pipe just because they have been herded in collections of individuals into casual *ad hoc* electoral constituencies.

The remedy, according to the writer, is to make our electoral constituencies out of living organic bodies corporate whose members have lived and worked and talked over public affairs with each other.

Let the family be made the electoral unit for provincial elections and the head of the family be given the vote. As the possession of a certain amount of property is a guarantee of

independence and of knowledge, the family should own property in various degrees of ownership. The minimum might be placed somewhere about 5 acres in respect of good fertile land and 10 acres in respect of dry less profitable land. And, as the dispersal of these acres in more than one locality, under the practice of sub-division of holdings, is uneconomic and unpolitical, this landed property should form one compact, undivided plot. In urban constituencies an income of Rs. 50 a month might give the householder the vote. Actual residence in the constituency for elector as well as representative is essential. Absentee electors and carpet-bag candidates lower the quality of representation. As a higher standard of independence and knowledge ought to be required of a representative, candidates for election must possess, say, an income of Rs. 1,000 a year.

In elections to Federal Legislative Assembly, the writer suggests that the village, through the village *Panchayat*, ought to be given the vote electing as many members as there are districts in the Province. If there are too few *Panchayats* they must be created where they do not exist.

INDIA AND BURMA

Future developments in India and Burma are reviewed by Sir Alfred Watson in an article in *Great Britain and the East*. Commenting on Hon'ble U. Saw's return to Burma, Sir A. Watson says:

As a matter of fact, all this flurry about Dominion Status or independence for either India or Burma may be quite out of date by the time the war is victoriously ended and, if the war is not ended in complete victory, it will have ceased to have the least significance for any of the countries concerned. . . .

Forces external to ourselves are carrying us away from the present organization of Commonwealth mastery to consider a wider federation that will bring together all peace-loving peoples in some close association for their common defence.

Sir Alfred further says that the Dominions both present and future will have to make a greater contribution to the Empire's defence than in the past, and concludes:

The vision for the future is some kind of Empire Federation, out of which none of the countries that now complain of the inferior status can afford to stand since their safety and very existence will depend on association with a group of nations that together will be unchallengeable, but standing alone will have no prospect of continued existence in freedom.

THE IMMEDIATE NEED

India has been figuring a great deal recently in the British press and there is a persistent demand that the deadlock in India should be resolved at the earliest. The Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru observes in the course of an article which is given the place of honour in the current issue of the *XX Century*, that mere repeated references to the hidden virtues of the Declaration of August 8, 1910, will not do.

There must be, in my opinion, a simple declaration made at this juncture, laying it down in unambiguous terms that India is no longer going to be treated as a dependency and that henceforth her constitutional status and powers will be the same as those of any other self-governing unit—an interim provision for responsibility of the National Government to the Crown being made for the period of the war. It will only be then that people will be put in a proper frame of mind and, begun to think in terms of concrete proposals for the various organisms of Government and their relation to each other.

But the declaration about India's status must be supplemented by the conversion of the present Executive Council into a truly National Government, that is to say a government in which room should be found for representatives of all the recognised political parties and important communities.

In forming a National Government it would, in my opinion, be a fatal blunder to overload it with the representatives of any particular party or community. Next, it should be left to this Government to evoke a proper feeling for the defence of the country, even at this eleventh hour. For, it must be recognised that the enemy is at our gates. It is such a government and such a government alone that can legitimately call upon the people of this country to defend their hearths and homes against the enemy. The pitiable part of it is that there was not wisdom and foresight enough to create such an active, patriotic feeling in the country some years ago. Even now it will not be too late to still further develop those heavy industries without which modern war cannot be fought. The plea of want of technicians and technical knowledge is a plea which may be, and is, in some respects, overdone. Next, the same spirit of Coalition should actuate the transformation of the character of the Government in the Provinces. In short, what is wanted at the present moment is far-sighted statesmanship and imagination. Will Mr. Churchill supply it? If he has not changed, or will not change, towards India I fear the prospect must continue to be gloomy.

BRITAIN'S DUTY TO INDIA

"If this war is to settle anything at all, there must be a settlement of the Imperial system. And India is the cornerstone of the whole system," writes Hilda Weirum Boulter in the well known *American Journal Unity*.

If we really believe that in the justice of our cause lies our strength, we cannot permit any miscarriage of that justice. If America is to trust her safety to arms, her own or those of others, which derive their strength from any moral fervour, she must be as sure of the morality as of the fervour.

If it is true that America's aid is indispensable to Britain—and we are certainly being led to believe that this is the case—and if it is true, as the President says, that our support goes to those "everywhere" who struggle to gain those human rights whose supremacy means freedom, then we have a duty to perform—a duty which we cannot shirk under pain of being false to our faith and to all that we hold most dear.

That duty, according to the writer, is to say plainly and boldly to the British Government—

We no more recognize your right to hold India against the will of the Indian people than we or you recognized the right of other aggressors to hold Poland against the will of the Polish people. It makes no difference how long you already have held India, except in so far as each day that you stay there increases the magnitude of the injustice done to the Indian people.

India is a large country with a huge population and great potential wealth and strength. Given proper support during the crucial period of initial independence, it could become self-defending in a very short time and would constitute no menace to future peace.

The much discussed communal problems of the Hindus and Moslems are for the Hindus and Moslems to settle; they are not your business, nor ours. They have grown in intensity since the beginning of foreign rule—your rule.

Your financial tie-ups, your investments in India can all be equitably arranged in time. We are willing to be on a commission to help settle such matters if necessary. But we insist that you give freedom to India now, that you help in the substitution of an Indian National Government for your own aggressor rule, that you honestly and decently withdraw—we insist upon this as the price of our further assistance to you in your struggle against aggression.

We cannot support you while you are still maintaining in India a government of aggression against the will of the people of India. We must feel that our hands are clean.

WHAT IS CULTURE?

A great deal is said and written about culture. Many people have tried to define it but the word covers so many aspects of life that no one's definition is satisfactory. Mr. C. Jinarajadasa, discussing "this mysterious thing called culture" in the pages of the *Theosophist*, observes that culture is not the result of a mental process alone, but requires elements of the heart as well.

It seems to me that when we examine cultured people of many lands, who have different race traditions, the root of culture consists in an attitude of the heart, which then gives a direction to the mind.

One characteristic which predominates in this attitude of the heart, and so of the mind, of a cultured man or woman, is the readiness to admire rather than the readiness to condemn. A cultured man does not condone evil or shut his eyes to whatever is defective. But somehow, as if by instinct, his attention is held first by what is to be admired, and only afterwards the condemnation, his criticism, finds a place.

The beginning of culture both in a college graduate and an unlettered peasant is when the heart says in the presence of anything new: "How beautiful."

In just that recognition of a quality of beauty, however slight the beauty and however faint its recognition, lies the root of Culture. When "How beautiful" and not "How curious" becomes a man's attitude towards all objects and events in life, then the sense of culture steadily grows from day to day. The mind can then attend the heart as an excellent aide-de-camp, that is, an "assistant-in-the field of battle", to take orders and see that they are carried out.

The Greeks did not talk of "Culture".

Their civilization was such that every boy and girl was so surrounded with beautiful phrases from the old poets (like English home life in the old days was with phrases from the Bible and Shakespeare), and with beautiful figures everywhere, specially statues (which was never the case anywhere else except in Greece), that Greek youth had an instinct for culture. So youth there sought in all things what they termed *Arete*—virtue, noble self-expression, honour—all these are implied in that one word; they did not plan to be "religious" but to be just. For Justice to the Greek was the expression in daily life of his realization of the Divine as the Good, the True and the Beautiful. And the Greeks succeeded in their search, and the Hindus and Chinese in theirs, and the best men and women of every land in their search, because the first impression about a thing or person was: "How beautiful, how noble, how lovable."

JAPAN'S POSE AS ASIA'S SAVIOUR

The most explosive force today in Japan is the idea of Pan-Asianism. Every Japanese believes in it as fervently as any Englishman put his faith in that oft-repeated slogan—the White man's burden. Hence, Mr. Mohan Nadkarni observes in the *Modern Review* for January that we cannot possibly go wrong if we assert that Japan's eastward drive is actuated by the flamboyant Japanese spirit of Pan-Asianism.

"Asia for the Asiatics" is the resounding cry among the high Japanese politicians and militarists. Thus says Major General Kenji Doihara: "The doctrine 'Asia for the Asiatics' is based on the superior principle that Asia must be safeguarded and maintained by the Asiatics alone." Furthermore, every Japanese is led to believe that he is born with a sacred mission—to free the Asiatics from the yoke of the Europeans, to emancipate the coloured people from the atrocities of the white men. Listen, to what Prof. Nakatani has to say on this point: 'To bring order and reconstruction to the present chaotic countries of Asia is the duty that rests mostly on the shoulders of Japan.'

This is not according to the Japanese, a mere dream, but is already translated into a stark reality by the patriotic Japanese. But sometimes it seems, these Pan-Asiatic dreams blur the realistic vision of the Japanese politicians and militarists. Thus blinded they cross the region even of their dreams and seem to float in the void.

The "sacred mission" of the Japanese does not stop at liberating Asia alone, but sometimes it expands enough to cover and compass the whole world in its warm glow. And then the emancipation of the world and not of Asia alone becomes 'the Yellow Man's burden'. 'It is now clear,' says Dr. Utsugi Shikichu, 'that the salvation of the entire human race is the mission of the Empire.' Another Japanese Dr. Kokich declares unflinchingly: 'The centre of the world is Japan.'

To us all this may seem an idle talk—a figment of a fevered brain. But to the Japanese it is real—as real and potential as the Fuji Yama.

For, has not Emperor Jimmu said two and a half millenniums ago: 'We shall build our capital all over the world and make the whole world our dominion'. The Japanese politicians of today, it seems, are striving to fulfil these words. Will they succeed? None but the Japanese will answer in the affirmative.

THE MODERATES' MANIFESTO

The weekly periodical *Spectator* commenting on the Indian Moderates' appeal to Mr. Churchill and their Four-Points Programme for India states:

This is a document that deserves a warmer welcome than it has so far received. The details of it may be open to challenge. The portfolios still retained in the hands of the British members of the Viceroy's Council are those of Home Affairs, Finance and Communications. Defence is in the Viceroy's own hands. Men as practical and experienced as Sir George Schuster have said openly that they would be perfectly ready to take the risk if any there be in transferring the Finance and Defence portfolios to Indian members. If so—and it must be admitted that there might reasonably be some hesitation about a change in the matter of Defence when the war is actually at India's door—Home Affairs and Communications could equally be entrusted to Indians.

It is known that Indian Moderates have no large following. They could not themselves administer their own plan. That matters little. The test of the programme is its inherent practicability, more than its authorship. The essential fact is that at last a scheme has come out of India which can, with a few modifications, be whole-heartedly approved.

Discussing the same Manifesto in *Time and Tide*, Prof. Edward Thompson writes:

If the Congress and the Muslim League were to support it, it would be hard even for Mr. Churchill to turn it down. It is believed that a new offer is about to be made to India. In the light of present day events, it is no longer relevant merely to argue that the offer already made to India would have been unthinkable a few years back and the old argument that Britain must remain supreme in India to defend India has vanished because India is defending herself and much else.

Moreover, says Professor Thompson

No one but ourselves believe we have made such an outstandingly good job of running India. One thing the Congress has to do is to unite India and it can do it by sweeping generous terms to Muslims and others. The cards are back in the hands of the Indian leaders. If the Congress were to co-operate, the Government could not afford to have them walk out again. Congress should state the terms, which the Government could not help accepting.

Professor Thompson argues that by supporting the terms of the Sapru manifesto the Congress could make themselves unquestioned leaders of post-war India. Congress should take constructive action instead of demanding a hundred per cent. satisfactory settlement first.

If India is knit by this war, who is going to take her unity and strength from her when this dread ordeal is over?

GANDHIJI AND TAGORE

"I have met many big people in various parts of the world," writes Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the *Visva Bharati Quarterly*.

But I have no doubt in my mind that the two biggest I have had the privilege of meeting have been Gandhiji and Tagore. I think they have been the two outstanding personalities in the world during the last quarter of a century. As time goes by, I am sure this will be recognised, when all the Generals and Field-M Marshals and dictators and shouting politicians are long dead and largely forgotten.

"It amazes me," Mr. Nehru adds, that India, in spite of her present condition (or is it because of it?) should produce these two mighty men in the course of one generation. And that also convinces me of the deep vitality of India and I am filled with hope, and the petty troubles and conflicts of the day seem very trivial and unimportant before this astonishing fact—the continuity of the idea that is India, from long ages past to the present day. China affects me in the same way. India and China: how can they perish?

There is another aspect which continually surprises me. Both Gurudev and Gandhiji took much from the West and from other countries, especially Gurudev. Neither was narrowly national. Their message was for the world and yet both were 100 per cent. India's children and the inheritors, representatives and exponents of her age-long culture. How intensely Indian both have been in spite of all their wide knowledge and culture. The surprising thing is that both of these men with so much in common and drawing inspiration from the same wells of wisdom and thought and culture should differ from each other so greatly. No two persons could probably differ so much as Gandhi and Tagore.

Again I think of the richness of India's age-long cultural genius which can throw up in the same generations two such master types, typical of her in every way, yet representing different aspects of her many-sided personality.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

- INDIA AND WORLD ORDER. By Srivatsa. [The Modern Review, January 1942.]
- INDIA AND THE MALADY OF OUR TIME. By R. M. Fox. [The Aryan Path, January 1942.]
- INDIA IN 1941. By M. Banwens. [The New Review, January 1942.]
- THE MIGHT OF WOMAN IN HINDU TRADITION. By "Muralidhar". [Vedanta Kesari, January 1942.]
- LEFTISM IN INDIAN POLITICS. By Shyama Charan Kala. [The XX Century, January 1942.]

HUMAN TORPEDOES

Japanese airmen are reported to have acted as human torpedoes in their attacks on *H. M. S. Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*.

It is claimed that Japanese pilots crashed their planes loaded with high explosives on targets in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii and blew themselves up in the process.

It is not known just how correct these reports are, says the *Sydney Sun* columnist who had spent a number of years in Tokyo, but no one should be in any doubt

that the Japanese could find plenty of fanatical volunteers for that immolation, if necessary.

The traditional Japanese spirit of Bushido or Yamato Damashi (which means literally, "Military Knight Ways") is as strong and as abiding in the Japanese fighting forces today as it was in the medieval days of the Samurai or warrior class.

True, that spirit was originally the expression of a code of ethics. It once insisted on honour as well as courage.

Today the bland grinning treachery of the skull-shaven war lords, hissing daikan-sour breath through gold-crusted teeth, has raped that Bushido code of its honour without however destroying its reckless spirit of exultant sacrifice.

General Tojo will find Japanese airmen, sailors and soldiers as eager to-day to destroy themselves against the enemy in fulfilment of the Bushido code as they were in the days of the famous 47 ronin (Samurai retainers) in 1700.

The "Human Bombs" statue, to which the Japanese proudly escort every visitor, represents the three crouching monkey-faced little figures, who, in 1932, crawled under barbed-wire in Shanghai with explosives tied around their bodies and blew themselves and the Chinese fortifications to pieces.

The "human bombs" roared "Banzai" for the Emperor in good Bushido style just as the officers and men on the transport *Kincho Maru* roared "Banzai", refused offers of surrender and sank under the Russian guns in the Russo-Japanese War.

Veteran newspaper correspondents like Hugh Byas of the *New York Times*, Percy Whiteing of the *Australian Associated Press*, and Larry Smith of *International News* were all satisfied that numbers of Japanese bombers and fighter

pilots would be trained in Bushido suicide tactics.

But every one—including the air and naval attachées at foreign embassies in Tokio—underrated the skill of the individual Japanese airman and believed that Bushido or no, the Imperial Japanese Air Force would be a push-over in modern air-fighting, which is apt to demand more than blind religious fervour for success; the Japanese pact with the Axis, which provided for technical German assistance to Nippon, have since grafted Nazi skill on to Japanese courage.

German Luftwaffe airmen, fully blooded in London air blitzes, were transferred to Tokio after the pact was signed and began intensive training of Japanese airmen on the barren, windy plains of North Manchukuo.

Premier Tojo, it must be remembered, was the most air-minded of the Japanese Army leaders and doubtless satisfied himself that a year's intensive German training of his Air Force had had results before he suicidally flung his war-wearied but submissive robots against the Democracies.

It will be interesting, however, to observe whether the fanaticism of the Bushido creed and the Emperor-worship of the Japanese will be able to withstand the shocks of air-raids on bamboo-and-paper Tokio, Kobe, and Yokohama.



"I hope Indians will realise the importance of patronising only Indian Insurance Institutions."

—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Place your Life Business with INDIAN Insurance Companies only.

BUDDHISM IN INDIA

The present status and the future development of Buddhism in India is discussed in the *Aryan Path* by two writers. N. V. Eswar and J. M. Ganguli. Representing different viewpoints they arrive at similar conclusions.

In Mr. Eswar's opinion the spirit of Buddhism is not dead. It is living in the hearts of the Indian people and manifesting itself in their ideals and aspirations.

No one will deny that Gandhi has given India an ideal to live for. It is not beside the truth to suggest that Indians have, because of Gandhi's unflinching devotion to his ideal in the very midst of destruction and death, begun searching their hearts once again and are gradually realising that violence saps life. As a result every thinking Indian now gives expression to his leaning towards non-violence as a principal ingredient in life, if not in practice and action, at least in theory and belief. Of course all have not come out in favour of absolute non-violence. But faith can be established only after considerable wrangling with doubts. Events that have taken place in the world during recent years have unnerved many of these doubters and, as a result, they are losing their faith in violence too. Therefore, the alternative is only non-violence, though many would struggle vainly against admitting this fact. The present thus shows the acceptance by India of non-violence as a cardinal principle of life.

Mr. Ganguli sees Buddhism as an inseparable part of Indian thought. It is not dead in India but only dormant and will once more manifest itself as a concrete movement. As a matter of fact, Buddhism is not true to its spirit in other lands where it has had an exotic growth.

It imbibed the spirit of the place, it conformed gradually to the mentality and the outlook of the people there, it followed the ideas and the traditions native to the land. And what a change came over it! Go out and see if you can recognise the Buddhism of China and Japan, for instance, as the philosophy of the great Buddha. Has that Buddhism grown, flowered and produced anything to add to and adorn the original? Rather, has it not been stunted, decayed, developed false notions and imbibed contrary ideas?

If Buddhism is to be resuscitated in India, it must be elevated to its former spiritual plane and cleansed of the shallow and distinctive rationalism of the West. It cannot be done by speeches and meetings and press publicity. It can only be done by its followers actually living the life of the Master. It must be integrated to Indian thought and actual life and not detached from the stream of Indian life,

Saivism, Vaishnavism, Sankhyaism and the rest, how smoothly they were all reconciled to the mother-stream! Buddhism has also likewise to be reconciled in order that it may regain vitality, as a drying branch river does when it is rejoined to and re-fed at its source by the main stream. It was so originally, and Buddha, in fact, was readily accepted as another Avatar come to help and comfort the miserable and to redeem the fallen. An Avatar always appears whenever the need for such help and guidance is crying. Has not such a cry rending the atmosphere in this land and in other lands of ancient Buddhism?

Buddhism should thus be re-united to the underlying spirit and the all-embracing philosophy of the Vedanta, of which it was only a passing phase and an efflux.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO WAR

There is an opinion widely held, chiefly in official circles, that India's sacrifice in this war is nothing comparable to that in the last Great War. That is probably due to the absence of a spectacular gesture like the £100 millions sanctioned at one sitting in a mood of generosity by the Central Legislative Assembly. Such an appeal to the Legislature, says the organ of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras, is perhaps not yet ruled out, but even without it India's sacrifice in this world conflagration is none the less stupendous.

The various War Funds which represent free donations to the Funds of the Provinces and of the Viceroy have amounted to Rs. 12 crores, Madras keeping the place of pride with 174 lakhs. The Defence Bonds, interest free and otherwise, and the Postal Defence Savings Certificates have fetched Rs. 52.37 crores up to 18th October 1941. The monetary sacrifice in the shape of free gifts and loans is nothing when compared to the numerous invisible sacrifices. As in normal times the item of invisible imports from the United Kingdom is of heavy weightage in our standing financial obligations to U. K., the invisible detriment to India resulting from the war is tremendous. Much of it is shouldered by way of a definite relief to U. K.

India's import and export trade with all her chief customers, except U. K. and U. S. A., has come to a standstill involving in the abruptness of that process the disappearance of a vast amount of money and goods and valuable business connections. After the outbreak of war India, China and Malaya has all been seriously threatened and is at the vanishing point. The Pacific route to U. S. A., Canada and South America countries is out of the question. Let us hope that the ramifications of Japanese air and sea tentacles will not seriously impede our trade with Burma or Ceylon.

INDIAN STATES

—(o)—

Hyderabad

PROTECTION FOR INDUSTRIES

In the course of a broadcast, the Nawab of Chhatari revealed that an assurance of protection, even after the war, had been given to certain industries started during the war.

His Exalted Highness, he said, had just passed orders that initial recruitment for permanent appointments to all grades and services in all civil departments of H. E. H. the Nizam's Government would in future be made from among men producing certificates of approved war service and were qualified for the particular grades or departments for which they applied. Until men with war service were obtained, all initial appointments would be on a temporary basis and would be replaced by men with war service.

NIZAM'S GOVT. & THE USE OF URDU

H. E. H. the Nizam's Government have issued a Press Note answering criticisms, by certain associations of the educational system of the Nizam's Dominions.

Referring to the use of Urdu as the medium of instruction in secondary schools, the Press Note states:

"The use of Urdu is justified not only by reason of its being the official language used in the law courts and public offices, but also because it is a widely understood Indian language. By its very origin, it embodies the spirit of Hindu-Muslim unity, both communities having shared equally in its development."

HYDERABAD TECHNICIANS

One hundred and twenty trainees, including draughtsmen, electricians and fitters who have received training in the Hyderabad technical training centres are leaving to join the Indian army technical services. The Nawab of Chhatari, President, Nizam's Executive Council, wishing them farewell, hoped they would return to Hyderabad with better experience and help the industrialisation of Hyderabad. He was delighted to see that they were eager to serve their country. Hyderabad has so far sent over 800 trainees while the total under training is about 900.

Mysore

MYSORE WAR FUND

The Executive Committee of the Mysore War Fund, which met on the 24th January under the presidency of Sir D'Arcy Rallly, Chairman, after reviewing the progress of war effort in the State, sanctioned the following grants:—(1) Rs. 10,000 for the relief to air raid victims in Burma, (2) Rs. 5,000 for the relief to air raid victims in Singapore; (3) Rs. 2,000 to the Women's Auxiliary Committee of the Mysore War fund for making amenities to troops; (4) Rs. 1,000 for amenities to Mysore Troops overseas; (5) Rs. 1,000 for amenities to recruits to Mysore State Force, etc. etc.

POPULATION OF MYSORE STATE

An increase of 624,680 in the population of Mysore State, since the census in 1931, is revealed in the provisional figures from this year's census operations in the State.

According to these figures, the present population in the State is 7,181,932, i.e., 3,688,294 males and 3,493,638 females. Roughly, 12½ per cent. of the population is literate.

A feature of the figures for literacy is the fact that there is an appalling difference in the percentage of literacy in the cities on the one hand and the rural areas on the other.

FOR DEFENCE OF INDIA

The Maharaja of Mysore has announced a donation of Rs. 6,50,000 to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the purchase of a mine-sweeping trawler, or for any other suitable purpose connected with the naval defence of India. In a letter to the Viceroy the Maharaja says: "At this time which calls for intensive war effort throughout India, I and my people are anxious to do our utmost."

GLASS BANGLES

The Industries and Commerce Department of the Government of Mysore has decided to revive the manufacture of glass bangles as a cottage industry, in view of the availability of raw materials in the State.

Baroda

SIR ROGER IN BARODA

His Excellency Sir Roger Lumley, Governor of Bombay, paid a short visit to Baroda, on January 19, as the guest of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar and visited various places of interest in the city. His Highness took the Governor's party to Timbi lake, situated some seven miles off the city for duck shooting. The ladies of the Governor's party had an opportunity of viewing the heirlooms of the Gaekwars, they visited next the State Jewellery at the Nazarbaj Palace. The party also paid visits to the Central Library, the Jubilee Science Institute, the Cottage Industries Institute, the Sri Chimanabhai Industrial Home for Women and the Maharaja Pratapsingh Coronation Gymkhana. The guests were entertained at dinner in the night at the Laxmi Vilas Palace.

CHEMICALS FACTORY

The Government have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 2,000 to be advanced to the proprietor of the Nutresearch Laboratory, Baroda, for purchase of raw materials and machinery for his factory. The loan will bear simple interest at 8 per cent. and is repayable within six years.

STARCH FACTORY

A loan of Rs. 15,000 has been sanctioned to the proprietor of the Chemista Products Co., to enable him to establish his factory at Billimora. The factory will produce starch.

Cochin

PROHIBITION ORDERS

The Cochin Government have issued a press *communiqué* withdrawing the order prohibiting the Cochin Praja Mandal and the Cochin Karshaka Sabha from holding meetings without Government permission.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Cochin Government have passed orders extending the term of the present Legislative Council for a further period of one year from 14th July 1942, the date on which normally the Council's term expires.

Travancore

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN AGREEMENT

Under the auspices of the Central War Committee, a public meeting was held in the Maharaja's College Hall, Ernakulam, on January 20, which was very largely attended.

Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, I.C.S., the Dewan of Cochin, who presided, paid a tribute to the work of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in Travancore and stressed the need for united effort on the part of Travancore and Cochin to meet the present crisis. Cochin supplied a good deal of timber and her war contracts would solve unemployment and add to the State's economic prosperity. He hoped that Travancore and Cochin would pool their resources and jointly fight the enemy till victory was won.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar said that it gave him no small joy to realise that the Cochin Government had come forward with a message of cordiality and fellow-feeling, a resolve to co-operate with the sister State of Travancore in the several great issues that were before them. This meant that no obstacles would present itself in the furtherance of their joint aims and he welcomed the declaration and the spirit which prompted it.

CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE

The Ninth All-Travancore Co-operative Conference was held in the Council Chamber, Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, presiding.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, opened the Conference.

Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, in the course of his presidential speech, said that from a study of the movement in the Provinces and States of India and from his experience in the Madras Presidency, he had formed the impression that it was a woeful failure and had belied the high expectations raised in the minds of the people by the self-styled apostles and leaders of the movement. The difficulty was that people were prone to forget the limitations of the movement and the net result was disappointment and despair.

Jamnagar

MAHARANI AS REGENT

In Jamnagar, the Maharani Saheba is now acting as Regent during the absence of His Highness the Jam Saheb. A Council has been formed to carry on the State's administration with Her Highness as President, the Dewan as Senior Member, and the Judicial Secretary as Junior Member.

The Maharani Saheba is an intelligent and very accomplished lady. She is familiar with English, Hindi, and Sanskrit, her own language being Gujarati. She is a sound administrator, an ardent social worker and a keen sportswoman. She attends most public functions and whenever occasion demands delivers extempore speeches.

A little over two years ago, she discarded the *purdah* and started taking a keen interest in social work in the State. Her first important reform was the establishment of the Infant Welfare Society, which among other things provides poor children of the State with a free supply of milk and medical aid.

Kashmir

KASHMIR MOUNTAIN BATTERY

His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur has been pleased to place on record his appreciation of the work of the 1st Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery, which left India on September 25, 1940, under the command of Major (now Lt.-Colonel) Bhagwan Singh and has achieved distinction in several campaigns and battles in Eritrea, Keren, Syria, and Damascus. In recognition of the meritorious and innumerable services rendered by Lt.-Col. Bhagwan Singh, Commander of the Battery, and as an incentive to the other officers of his forces, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur has been pleased to sanction an Hereditary Jagir of Rs. 3,600 per annum in favour of Lt.-Col. Bhagwan Singh, to be held by him and his Heirs male in the direct line in perpetuity.

Bhopal

CIVIL DEFENCE PORTFOLIO

H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal has ordered the creation of a new portfolio of Civil Defence for the duration of the war.

The new portfolio is to be under the direct and personal control of His Highness and may from time to time under His Highness's instructions, take over such departments which His Highness considers closely connected with war effort and civil defence.

Jodhpur

ADVISORY ASSEMBLY

His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur performed the inauguration ceremony of the Representative Advisory Assembly established on an elected basis. (41 of the members are elected and 9 are nominated and 14 are officials) on the 15th January.

Welcoming the members on behalf of His Highness, Sir Donald Field, Chief Minister, said that the Government welcomed the assistance of the members in the task of administration, particularly their advice relating to matters of public interest. He said that His Highness did not postpone this Assembly, because he trusted that members would share the burden of responsibility; secondly,

in this war, when the rich and the poor suffer alike, it is appropriate, while a peoples' war is raging, members should commence their labours until victory is achieved, the main preoccupation of the Government being obviously war effort.

Indore

RURAL UPLIFT IN INDORE

The Government of H. H. the Maharaja Holkar have sanctioned a lakh of rupees from the Rural Uplift Fund for granting special loans, free of interest, to the cultivator of the Nemawar District in the State for the sinking of new wells.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

Ceylon

CEYLON INDIAN CONGRESS

In his presidential address to the second annual session of the Ceylon Indian Congress, held at Jawahar Nagar in Kandy on January 11, Mr. M. A. Aziz suggested a Round Table Conference between representatives of the Ceylon National Congress to settle once and for all Indo-Ceylon differences.

He said that if there was frank and free discussion with goodwill on either side, he was sure that the Indo-Ceylon problem would not be found incapable of solution. With the international situation what it was now, Mr. Aziz felt that the destinies of India and Ceylon were bound together.

The Session, which was attended by about 4,000 members, was formally opened by Mr. C. S. Narayanaswami Ayyar

The Congress adopted a number of resolutions. One of them protested against the provisions of the Draft Village Tribunal Ordinance, which aimed at bringing Indian estate labourers under the jurisdiction of the Village Tribunal Areas, while they were denied the franchise in those areas.

Burma

EVACUEES FROM BURMA

The following Press Communique has been issued:—

The Government of India have received information from their Agent in Burma that, in order to overcome practical difficulties hitherto experienced in arranging priority for Indian evacuees and for the better regulation of arrangements at places of embarkation, a scheme has now been put into operation at Rangoon under which the Government of Burma themselves will control sea passages.

The Government of India's Agent, who is himself assisted by a Committee of local Indians, will remain in close touch with the Controller of Passages and advise him on all connected matters.

The Scheme aims at giving preference to women, children, aged persons and others for whom priority of passages to India is advisable but there is no absolute restriction on any class.

Passengers who are given tickets, will be collected in a special camp a few hours before sailing and will be given free food and transport to the vessel.

Malaya

C. R.'s MESSAGE TO INDIANS

The following message to the Indians in Malaya by Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar was broadcast from the All-India Radio on the 23rd January —

Indians in Malaya We here in India who are yet in comparative fortune, share with you in mind every minute all the miseries and all the pain and suffering that we know you are undergoing in this war which has come upon you for no sin of yours. Brave men and women should take joy as well as misfortune as it comes. We cannot take the good things and object to the troubles and dangers involved in the adventure. In such difficulties as you are faced with, all Indians in Malaya should consider themselves as members of one family and help one another without thought of 'mine' and 'yours'. There must be numerous people stranded in utmost difficulty.

Anyone who is better off than his neighbour should help and relieve distress as far as possible. Misfortune becomes good fortune if we forget all differences and help one another. Do not yield to the temptation of blaming one another in the hour of trial. Organise mutual assistance and India will be proud of you when the better day dawns.

MR. ANEY'S MESSAGE TO INDIANS

The Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Aney, Member in charge of the Department of Indians Overseas, has sent the following message to the Indian community in Malaya:—

India is watching with the closest interest and sympathy the gallant resistance of Malaya to the Japanese invader. I am certain that all Indians in civil occupations will gladly emulate the heroism of Indian soldiers, which has won undying fame in so many theatres of war. United effort, in whatever sphere may be allotted to us, cannot fail to stem and finally overthrow the aggressors. India is exerting herself to give every assistance to the defenders of democracy. I am confident you will stand firm with high courage, knowing that you are always in our thoughts and that India shares in both your anxieties and your triumphs.

The Pacific Zone

"INDIANS OVERSEAS" DEPARTMENT

It is learned that the Department of Indians Overseas would become a co-ordinating department for dealing with the Indians in the Pacific war zone. It is pointed out that the department normally deals with Indians within the British Empire, and those residing outside the Empire are looked after by the External Affairs Department.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

LIBERALS' CABLE TO MR. CHURCHILL

The following cable was despatched by Sir T. B. Saprú and other Liberal leaders to Mr. Churchill:—

Some bold stroke of courageous statesmanship is called for without delay in India at this hour of growing danger to her safety to enlist her whole-hearted active co-operation in intensifying the war effort. Millions of men and women are required for the adoption of effective measures designed to protect the civilian population. The heart of India must be touched to rouse her on a nation-wide scale and to call for service undistracted by internal and domestic differences.

Is it not possible for you to declare at this juncture that India will no longer be treated as a dependency to be ruled from Whitehall and that henceforth her constitutional position and powers will be identical with those of the other units of the British Commonwealth? Such a declaration should be accompanied by concrete measures calculated to impress on the people that in co-operating with the war effort they would be safeguarding their own freedom.

These measures are The conversion and expansion of the Central Executive Council into a truly National Government, consisting entirely of non-officials of all recognised parties and communities and in charge of all portfolios subject to responsibility to the Crown.

Restoration of popular Governments in the Provinces ruled under Section 93, they being broad based on the confidence of the different classes and communities or, failing this, the establishment of non official Executive Councils responsible to the Crown;

Recognition of India's right to direct representation through men chosen by the National Government, in the Imperial War Cabinet, in all Allied War Councils wherever established and at the Peace Conference; and

Consultation with the National Government precisely on the same footing and to the same extent as His Majesty's Government consult the Dominions in all matters affecting the Commonwealth as a whole and India particularly.

These are the war measures whose adoption need in no way prejudice the claims and demands of the different Parties in regard to India's permanent constitution. But knowing intimately the feelings and aspirations of our countrymen as we do, we must express our conviction that nothing less than the inauguration of this policy will resolve the crisis in India.

The urgency of immediate action cannot be over-emphasised. We appeal to you in all sincerity but with great emphasis to act while there is still time for such action.

UTTERANCES OF THE DAY

C. R. ON DEFENCE OF INDIA

Speaking at the Gokhale Hall, Madras, Sri C. Rajagopalachari said:

Defence has become a reality in India. The people of Britain remain unconcerned, because after all the people of Britain are well defended both by Nature and by all the munitions and men that they could gather. Her coastline is not very broad and she has a very nice moat all around. Besides they are brave people and from ancient times they have defended their country. But the defence of India is not so easy as the defence of Britain and, moreover, it is not in our hands. It is in the hands of the British and one doubts what policy Britain may follow, what strategy she will adopt in regard to India...

What we want must be made plain. We want now and at once a Government of the nation, a National Government in charge of everything. We want a declaration that for all time our dependency is gone and that we are a free people. If that is done, India's defence becomes her own concern.

GEN. WAVELL'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN TROOPS

H. E. Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, the Commander-in-Chief, in the course of a broadcast on New Year's eve, said:

India is playing a great, a most honourable and increasing part in the struggle. She can look back with pride, indeed, on the magnificent achievements of her troops in 1941, in Libya, in Italian East Africa, in Syria, Iraq, Persia, Malaya and Hongkong. Never has the reputation of Indian troops stood higher or their exploits been more admired, and their losses up to present have fortunately been comparatively light and small indeed in proportion to the results they have achieved.

SIR RADHAKRISHNAN ON GANDHIJI

Concluding the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Benares Hindu University, Sir S. Radhakrishnan, the Vice-Chancellor, said:—

At a time when the world is groping in the dark, Mahatma Gandhi gives us faith. When we are surrounded by disillusionment, he imparts hope, and when we are bent on resentment and misunderstanding, he calls us back to the path of love and truth. Mahatma Gandhi is a living symbol of non violence, incapable of the least ungenerous thought and his heart is so large as to encompass the whole humanity. He is a man of peace and, therefore, he is the most powerful adversary to the present passion-torn war-shattered world.

THE EASTERN COMMAND

The command of all British and Indian land forces in Iraq and Iran has passed from the Indian Command to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

This change, which has been necessitated by recent developments in the course of the war, is in accordance with the policy of ensuring co-ordinated command in each strategic area of major importance.

The position thus is that the outer defences of India, both east and west, are in the hands of two distinguished soldiers (Gen. Wavell and Gen. Auchinleck) who having both very recently been Commanders-in-Chief in India, are in an exceptional position to view the situation with full appreciation of India's point of view.

GANDHIJI NAMES NEHRU SUCCESSOR

In his speech commending the Bardoli decision to the A.-I.C.C., Gandhiji said

The idea that there has been a split or quarrel in the Working Committee is absolutely wrong. The difference between me and Jawaharlal Nehru is a no secret, but this difference cannot separate us. The same is true about Sardar Patel, Rajaji and others. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is my legal heir. I am sure when I pass, he will take up all the work I do. He is a brave and courageous man. Often he quarrels with me, but when I am no more, he will know how to carry on the work.

RESOLVE THE DEADLOCK

An analysis of the position resulting from recent pronouncements of the Congress Party and the Moslem League from its Delhi special correspondent is published in the *Times*. Commenting editorially, the paper says that

it could, however, be a grave mistake if these difficulties were to discourage any fresh approach to the problem. The divergences between the parties should not be allowed to obscure the substantial unanimity of purpose throughout political India, to which the appeal of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and his twelve co-signatories has given expression. The tortuous phraseology of party declarations does not wholly conceal the change of political times.

BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY

Tremendous ovation greeted Mahatma Gandhi when he rose to address the Convocation of the Benares University. Paying a warm tribute to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mahatma Gandhi declared:

Great as had been his (Malaviya's) contribution to the public life of the country, his greatest achievement was the Benares University.

Addressing the students and teachers of the University, Mahatma Gandhi hoped he would be excused by them for his outspokenness when he criticised them for choosing English as the medium of expression of their thoughts. He would have been satisfied if Hindi, Hindustani, Urdu, Sanskrit or any other Indian language had been employed on this occasion. There was hardly any sense in blaming Englishmen for their treatment of India when we hugged like slaves their language pathetically. Gandhiji asked:

What further proof of our degeneration could there be than the force of our feeling elated over the compliment from an Englishman that we spoke English so very faultlessly? And then there were very few men like Pandit Malaviya and Sir Radhakrishnan who can justly claim such a proficiency.

STUDENTS AND POLITICS

Presiding over the Jhansi College prize distribution celebrations, Prof. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, advised the students not to take part in politics. He said it would be a sad day in the history of the nation if the educational institutions became battle-fields of politics and students began to dabble in it without having even an elementary knowledge of it. The aim of the student, continued Prof. Jha, should be to follow truth, goodness, and beauty and as the immediate aim, they must try to acquire health, wealth, and knowledge.

Replying to those critics of the present system of education, who wanted it to go lock, barrel and stock, Prof. Jha said: "Let me tell them that all great Indian national leaders, philosophers, poets and scientists are the product of the present system of education which is condemned by them as rotten, poisonous and vicious. There are, of course, some defects but there is nothing fundamentally wrong with it."

INDIAN CARGOES IN ENEMY VESSELS

A Press Note says:—

Indian cargo-owners, who had cargoes on certain enemy vessels which previously took refuge in Italian East Africa ports now in the occupation of the Imperial Forces, will be interested to learn that the occupied territories Administration have been requested to supply as full a statement as possible regarding such cargoes. The investigation is, however, difficult and must take some time.

As soon as such information as is found possible to compile is available, it will be furnished to His Majesty's Procurator-General, London, in order that prize proceedings may be instituted against such shipments as have been identified.

HON. MR. JUSTICE J. A. BYERS

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. J. A. Byers, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, to be an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court, with effect from January 16, 1942, to July 15, 1943, vice the Honourable Mr. Justice C. Kunhiraman.

NEW MADRAS JUDGE

Major James Alan Bell was sworn in on January 15 as Judge of the Madras High Court and took the oath of office before the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Burn, Mr. Justice Krishnaswami Iyengar, and Mr. Justice Lakshmana Rao.

MR. JUSTICE M. C. CHAGLA •

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Mr. Justice M. C. Chagla to be an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court for a further period of one year with effect from the 1st March 1942.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

The Government of Madras have completed the examination of all cases of prisoners convicted under Defence of India Rules, and out of 579 cases have ordered the release of 346.

INSURANCE IN WAR TIME

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce Member, speaking at a luncheon in connection with the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Insurance Companies at Delhi on January 17, said that he realised that, insurance companies were passing through anxious times but declared there was no reason whatever for the public at large to have doubts about insurance in this country in general.

If there was any idea that this was not the time for life insurance to be taken out, he was in a position to contradict the correctness of that attitude. Taking a long and reasonable view, this was the time when life should be insured more rapidly and in larger numbers than ever before and he felt certain that as weeks went by, the public would realise the importance of it and life insurance business would look up.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar earlier in his speech gave the assurance that there was not the slightest intention on the part of Government or the Superintendent of Insurance in any manner to choke the growth of insurance business in the country or make distinctions between young and old life offices, discriminate between Indian and foreign, even British insurance companies.

INSURANCE ORDINANCE

A Press Note says: "In a recent amendment to the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, 1940, the special definition of goods situated in British India, originally contained in the Ordinance, has been deleted.

The effect of this is to render insurable goods sea-borne in ports or maritime territorial waters, which were previously not insurable under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance scheme.

The Government of India propose, however, to exempt from compulsory insurance any goods forming the import or export cargoes of ships which are already covered by Marine war risks insurance policies.

GERMANY AND SUEZ CANAL SHARES

Seven-sixteenths of the shares of the Suez Canal Co. belong to the British Government. The administration is predominantly French, having one Dutch, 10 British, and 21 French Directors. Fifty-seven per cent. of the total traffic through the Canal was, before the war, British, next in order of importance and that a distant second being Dutch, with Germany following as a close third. The French Government own no shares in the Company, while their benefits from it as a flourishing concern can be measured by the fact that they obtained in the way of tax receipts 77 million francs in 1926.

A TRADE ROUTE TO RUSSIA

One more link with Russia is being established with the organisation of a regular supply route from India via Baluchistan and East Iran. More than 5,000 labourers are now employed in improving the road surface and it is expected that the number will shortly rise to 8,000.

Linked to the overland transportation arrangements put into action by British experts, a Russian organisation called Iran-Sov-Trans now takes delivery at a series of points in Northern Iran.

GROUND-NUT OIL

India is now the biggest producer of ground-nut oil in the world, although her share in the world trade is negligible, states the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India in his Report on the Marketing of Ground-nuts in India and Burma. Her production of ground-nut oil during the five-year period 1933-34 to 1937-38 is estimated to have averaged 336,000 tons.

INDIA'S WAR SUPPLY

The value of orders placed in India by the Supply Department during the second year of the war amounted to about 110 crores, or nearly double the figure of the first year of the war. The total for the two years taken together exceeded Rs. 164 crores.

INDIAN WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

The hope that ere long the Government would extend statutory recognition to the Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Indian Women's University, taking into consideration the singular work it was doing in the field of education of Indian women, was expressed by the Rt. Hon. Mr. M. R. Jayakar, presiding over the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the institution at Yerandavana.

Mr. Jayakar paid glowing tributes to Prof. D. K. Karve, founder of the University, who fought against all odds to achieve the task of establishing this University, and to Lady Thackersey for her great zeal in collecting funds for the University. He added that the University was founded mainly on the idea that women could never be competitors or rivals of men. The whole theory of women's education on which the institution was started, was based on the facts of Nature. When the institution first came into existence, co-education was in great favour and the idea of a Women's University was criticised as retrograde. But Prof. Karve stuck to his idea that men and women must remain distinct in certain spheres and activities of life, because Nature intended them to be essentially so, and the fine record of the work of the institution and the progress achieved by it showed how eminently Prof. Karve had succeeded in his life's mission.

Concluding, Mr. Jayakar commended the introduction of courses in domestic science, knowledge of medicine and courses for secretarial duties for women, which would offer scope for employment of women in those spheres of activities.

WOMEN DOCTORS FOR I. M. S.

The Government of India have decided to recruit for the duration or the present emergency a limited number of women medical graduates to the Indian Medical Service with full liability for general service in and out of India, says a press *communiqué*. At present lady doctors having experience in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Radiology, Pathology, Ophthalmology or Anaesthetics will be recruited. Recruitment will be open to both Indians and Europeans below the age of 45.

INDIAN PRESS IN WAR TIME

Speaking at the Bombay Rotary Club, Mr. Francis Low, the Editor of the *Times of India*, explained the press advisory system which is now in operation throughout the country.

This system, said Mr. Low, was the result of an agreement between the All-India Editors' Conference and the Government of India, and it functions through a Central Press Advisory Committee in consultation with the Home Department of the Government of India, and Provincial Press Advisory Committees in each of the provinces. Mr. Low described the All-India Editors' Conference as an example to the rest of India in its spirit of brotherhood and service, since through it the editors of papers of divergent views worked together in harmony for their common good.

MR. K. SRINIVASAN OF THE HINDU

Tributes were paid to Mr. K. Srinivasan, Managing Editor of the *Hindu*, by various speakers at the Gokhale Hall, Madras, on January 9, when a portrait of Mr. Srinivasan was unveiled by the Rt. Hon. Dr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri in the presence of a large and representative gathering.

Dr. Sir C. R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, presided over the function.

Mr. Sastri, in the course of his speech, said that Mr. Srinivasan had achieved a very notable success as the head of the association of newspaper editors. This body of newspaper editors, which at any time would have been of the greatest importance, was today occupying in the public eye a position of superlative importance.

FRONTIER JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION

A resolution, urging the Government immediately to set up a Press Advisory Committee in the North-West Frontier Province, was unanimously passed at a meeting of the Frontier Journalists' Association, held in Peshawar.

The Association, in a second resolution, demanded the summoning of a press conference by the Secretary to Government, Information Department, every month so as to enable the press to have an exchange of views with the Government on current topics.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Archbishop of Canterbury announced his resignation on the 21st January in the presence of the full Synod of the Convocation of Canterbury.

In announcing his decision to resign to make way for a younger man, the 78-year-old Doctor Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, is following the unique example set by his predecessor, the late Lord Davidson of Lambeth, who resigned at the age of 80 in 1928.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught passed away very peacefully at Bagshot Park, Surrey, on January 11. The Duke of Connaught would have been 92 on May 1 next.

Known as "The Soldier Prince", the Duke was the last surviving son of Queen Victoria and a direct link with the Duke of Wellington, who was one of his god-fathers at the christening.

NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of General Sir Alan Fleming Hartley, K.C.S.I., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., to be the Commander-in-Chief in India (and a member of the Governor-General's Executive Council) in succession to General Sir Archibald Percival Wavell.

NEW BISHOP OF MADRAS

The Rev. A. M. Hollis, Vicar of Cheltenham, Gloucester, and at present Chaplain to the Forces, has been elected Bishop of Madras in succession to the Rt. Rev. E. H. M. Waller. He has written to the Metropolitan of the Church of India, Burma and Ceylon, accepting the offer.

Srn P. R. RAU

Sir P. Raghavendra Rau, Additional Secretary, Finance Department, died on January 28, in the Willingdon Nursing Home, New Delhi, where he had been removed following a fainting fit.

MR. KRISHNARAJ THACKERSEY

Mr. Krishnaraj M. D. Thackersey has been elected Chairman of the Board of Millowners' Association for the year 1942.

A SANATORIUM FOR T. B. PATIENTS

The Marchioness of Linlithgow declared open, on December 8, the Deepchand Ojha Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients, about 11 miles from Karachi. The Sanatorium accommodates a hundred patients and was built from donations.

Mr. Jamsheer Nusserwanji, Chairman of the Sanatorium, asking Lady Linlithgow to perform the ceremony, pointed out how great was the need for such a sanatorium in Sind, which had nearly 8,000 tuberculosis sufferers.

Lady Linlithgow, declaring open the Sanatorium, said that tuberculosis could not be cured by sanatoria alone but by the co-operation of every man, official or non-official and every woman in India. She said that the only scheme which, from the practical point of view, had any prospect of success in the existing conditions in this country was to control the disease by organised home treatment.

INDIANISATION OF I. M. S.

Complete Indianisation of the Indian Medical Service, which should be a purely military service, on the lines of the Royal Army Medical Corps, was demanded by the Eighth Provincial Medical Conference held at Benares last month.

The resolution urged that till these reforms were carried out, there should be no further recruitment of Europeans to the medical services in India, and that holders of Emergency Commissions in the Indian Medical Service and emergency appointments to the Indian Medical Department, should be given preference in the matter of holding permanent posts in their respective services.

I. M. S. OFFICERS

More doctors have already been recruited in India through the I. M. S. than during the whole war of 1914-18. In September 1939, there were 830 Europeans and 240 Indian Officers. By January 1941, the service contained twice as many Indian as European Officers, and in July the proportion rose to two and a half.

BLOOD BANK FOR COLOMBO

A blood bank is to be established in the General Hospital, Colombo, to meet any demands that may arise in an emergency.

VITAMIN VALUES

Vitamins are precious elements found in food and essential to perfect health. The four chief vitamins are known as A, B, C, and D. Vitamin A is found in butter (margarine now contains vitamins) cheese, milk, egg yolk, lettuce, cabbages, calves' liver, codliver oil, halibut oil and dried dates. It helps to give resistance to disease.

Vitamin B strengthens the nerves and is found in wheat, wholemeal bread, yeast, dried beans and lentils and egg yolk. Vitamin C is found in oranges, lemons, grape fruits, bananas, black-currants, tomatoes, horse radish and green vegetables. Lack of this vitamin results in the disease known as scurvy. Vitamin D is necessary to prevent rickets. It is found in codliver oil, halibut oil and egg yolk.

EAT MORE PULSES

"A diet largely composed of raw milled rice contains insufficient vitamin B1 to prevent beriberi," says Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, Director, Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, in Health Bulletin No. 23 published by the Government of India.

Beriberi is a disease in which there is partial or complete paralysis of the limbs due to degeneration of the nerves which is often accompanied by dropsy and by weakness of heart muscle leading to heart failure. Its essential cause is insufficiency of the anti-beriberi vitamin in the diet. Yeast and the outer layers of cereals removed on milling (e.g., rice and wheat bran) have a high vitamin B1 content. The richest source of vitamin B1 among ordinary foods are unmilled cereals, pulses and nuts.

3. MAKING MEAT MORE PALATABLE

Science is concerned not only with the provision of new dishes but with the improvement of existing foods. Meat can be made more palatable, more digestible, it is claimed, on the use of an electrically operated machine known as the "Delicator".

Particularly recommended for hospitals, the device consists mainly of 58 thin razor-sharp, stainless steel blades which, in a few moments, cut criss-cross into raw boneless meat upto 1 1/4 inches thick, severing the sinews and fibres.

LAND MORTGAGE BANKS

Opening the 12th Land Mortgage Banks' Conference at Madras on January 3, Mr. T. Austin, Adviser to H. E. the Governor of Madras, pointed out that the loans distributed by the Central Land Mortgage Bank were concentrated in two or three areas, remarking: "This seems to have been the case ever since the Bank started."

Out of Rs. 41 lakhs lent in 1940-41, Chingleput and North Arcot and S. Arcot received only Rs. 5 lakhs, the Ceded Districts Rs. 3 lakhs and West Coast one lakh.

Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, President of the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank, said the transactions last year decreased from 42'81 lakhs to 40'77 lakhs as the result of the stoppage of loans above Rs. 5,000 and the increase in the rate of interest charged to borrowers.

LOAN REDEMPTION IN MYSORE

The Government of Mysore have given the required six months' notice of repayment to holders of the State 6½ per cent. 1941-51 loan redeemable at par. The amount outstanding is Rs. 25,88,912½ and the loan has been quoted at around Rs. 102-10, and there has been known to be a scarcity of scrip in the market. Indeed, this applies to all the Mysore Government securities which are:

LOAN.		AMOUNT OUTSTANDING ON 30TH Nov. 1939.		RATE.
		Rs.	RL. AS. P.	
6½%	1941-51	25,38,912½	102	8 0
5 %	1935	1,63,44,300	126	4 0
4 %	1953-63	2,93,85,200	115	4 0
3½%	1951-58	50,00,000	106	0 0
3 %	1956-61	1,99,72,900	104	0 0

SPURIOUS JAP NOTES

Tom Fairball, a staff reporter of the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, cabled to that paper from Singapore on December 29:

"At Taiping a staff officer showed us spurious dollar notes which the Japs are using in occupied areas. The notes are just like the ordinary Straits dollar notes except that the wording reads: The Japanese Government promises the bearer....." instead of the usual Straits Government pledge.

RAILWAY FINANCE

A situation of considerable interest has arisen in regard to the moratorium granted to railway finances in respect of payments due under the Convention separating railway finances from general revenues. The moratorium, granted originally in 1937 and renewed in 1939, expires at the end of March 1942.

Railway finances are in a very prosperous state owing to movement of war supplies and increase in rates and fares. But for the moratorium railways would be liable to repay contribution to general revenues and also the borrowing from the depreciation fund. One of the two charges should have precedence over the other in the matter of repayment is a matter of argument. From the point of view of the general taxpayer, it is necessary that a large part of railway profits should come to the assistance of general revenues to finance war expenditure. When the arrears of contributions are paid off, the question of debt due to the depreciation fund will become an academic domestic problem of railway finances.

RAILWAY RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Khaja Sir Mohammad Noor, ex-President, Bihar Legislative Council, ex-Chairman of the Joint Public Services Commission of Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar and Orissa, and ex-Judge, Patna High Court, has been appointed President of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee.

S. I. RAILWAY MAGAZINE

The Christmas number of the *South Indian Railway Magazine* is attractively got up. A lovely picture of the Nilgiri Hills in green and grey adorns the cover. The contents include a variety of reading matter—grave and gay, interspersed with topical notes of special interest to Railway employees.

STATE PURCHASE OF RAILWAYS

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways, at a meeting held at Delhi on December 15, approved of an estimated expenditure of Rs. 16.34 lakhs for the purchase of the Bengal and North-Western Railway and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

SRI THYAGABRAHMAN CELEBRATIONS

The annual Mahotsavam of the great saint, Sri Thyagabrahman, was celebrated last month at Trivadi in the spacious pandal in front of the samathi itself situated on the banks of the Cauvery.

Raja Sir Annamalai Obettiar, President of the Mahotsavam Committee, requested Mr. Gopala Reddi to inaugurate the function.

Mr. P. S. Visvanatha Aiyar, Mr. V. Boovaraha Iyengar and Srimati Nagarathnam of Bangalore spoke about the greatness of the Saint Thyagayyar. The latter also deplored the present controversy going on in the music circles about the language of the songs and appealed to the lovers of music to sink their differences as music was soul-entrancing in whatever language the songs might be.

The celebrations included a number of musical performances by well known artistes. An attractive souvenir published on the occasion contains a programme, which gives an idea of the variety and wealth of the feast afforded at this great festival of music.

ART EXHIBITION

An exhibition of the paintings dealing with Tibetan life by Mr. Kanwal Krishna and Mrs. Devayani Krishna, held in the Arts College Hall of the Benares Hindu University, formed a feature of University Silver Jubilee celebrations. The paintings have won rich encomiums from eminent art critics in India and have been exhibited before Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow and the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

THE LATE M. S. NAGAPPA

Rao Bahadur M. S. Nagappa, a well-known sculptor and artist of Madras, died at his residence in Narasingapuram Street, Mount Road, on January 12. His end was sudden and unexpected. He was aged 51.

Mr. Nagappa had executed the statues of many Maharajas and prominent personalities of South India and won meritorious recognition in the field of art. He leaves his wife, five sons and three daughters.

SUBSTITUTE FOR PENTANGULAR CRICKET

"The Zonal Pentangular scheme that I am presenting to Bombay fulfils all the virtues of the existing Bombay Pentangular Cricket Tournament minus its communal virus and, therefore, should commend itself to all concerned in Bombay," declared Dr. P. Subbarayan, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in an interview in Bombay explaining the Zonal Pentangular scheme as a substitute for the Bombay Pentangular.

Dr. Subbarayan further said that the Zonal Pentangular Tournament, drawing as it did players from all over India—in fact the same material as comprises the Communal Pentangular but more healthily redistributed—would ensure the same high standard of "games". Hence it should satisfy both those responsible for the financial side of the tournament and those interested in the standard of the game. At the same time it would have exorcised the evil of communalism from the tournament.

"I don't see any reason why this scheme should face any opposition from any quarter," asserted Dr. Subbarayan.

PROVINCIAL HOCKEY

The Executive Committee of the Punjab Hockey Association have accepted the offer of the Indian Hockey Federation to stage the Inter-Provincial tournament at Lahore during March this year.

It was decided to run the tournament in aid of war funds and to request the Indian Hockey Federation to contribute their share of the profits to the same cause.

The trials for the selection of the Punjab Hockey Association will be held from February 12 to February 15.

BOAT RACE

Oxford and Cambridge Boat Clubs have decided that the University Boat Race is impracticable this year and also that they were unable to accept the invitation to send a combined crew to compete in the Red Cross Regatta at Barnes.

DURAND FOOTBALL TOURNEY

The Durand Football Tournament will not take place this year and will be held in abeyance for the duration of the war.

NEW TYPE OF RIFLE

A rifle of a new pattern is being issued to British Army troops. It has a bayonet only 6 inches long compared with 16½ inch type of other guns. "It is as good as any rifle in the world and more efficient than most," said an expert. The rifle is being produced rapidly and recruits are being trained with it, but it is not replacing the patterns already in service. The new bayonet has 4 fluted sides and a needle-sharp point.

X-RAY PHOTOS

In less than one twenty-thousandth of the time it takes you to blink an eyelid, a new glass tube developed by Westinghouse engineers makes possible the taking of pictures.

Exposure is a millionth of a second. This ultra high-speed X-ray tube, enables the photographing of the inner structure of opaque objects moving at rapid speed. Already through the new tube, scientists have discovered what happens when a bullet pierces wood or a golfer drives off his ball.

TYPING WITH TALK

Telephone conversations can be converted into printed words by a device that the Bell Telephone, U.S.A., has developed. A business man will dictate letters into a microphone and when he has finished they will be ready for him to sign. Musical notes will no longer have to be written by hand; as they are played or sung, the automatic secretary will take them down. The device is electrically operated.

BULLET-PROOF GLASS

A bullet-proof glass, three inches thick, is described recently in an American periodical. Used in the construction of an aeroplane wind-shield, the material would protect an aviator from machine-gun bullets fired from a range of only 100 yards.

PHYSICS MUSEUM

In connection with the Benares University Silver Jubilee celebrations, Sir C. V. Raman opened a Physics Museum at the College of Science at the Benares Hindu University on January 21.

GERMAN WAR FILM

A captured German propaganda film was recently shown at a well-known Talkie house in Madras. It shows how the German war machine rolls destructively on, slaying in its path men, women and children, civilians and soldiers alike. None is spared. The screams of women mingle with the thunder of guns and the crack of rifles. And the tragedy of wives seeking husbands among the slain is graphically portrayed. War at its bloodiest is here. The film was prepared under the orders of Dr. Goebbels in order to terrify neutrals into non-resistance to Nazi aggression. It comes to India to show what menaces us all.

In addition, there is an excellent film of what Australia is doing to combat that menace, and a news film showing Indian troops entering Iran, doing their bit to defeat Nazism. These things alone wake the programme worth seeing.

CAROLE LOMBARD

Film star, Carole Lombard, was found dead with her mother in a plane crash on January 18. The under-sheriff reported that the wreckage and bodies were strewn hundreds of yards and most of the victims were unrecognizable. The plane apparently hit at less than one hundred feet from the top of the mountain.

Clark Gable was en route to the scene at the time the fatal news was reported. All 22 passengers aboard the air-liner were found dead.

SOUTH INDIA PICTURES

The South India Pictures, it is announced, have taken over the distribution rights of the Tamil Talkie "Bala Yogini", starring Baby Saroja. Some scenes in the picture have been coloured. Two other pictures produced by the Madras United Artistes Corporation, 'Kausalya Parinayam' and 'Mr. Ammanji' have also been taken over by the South India Pictures for distribution.

VASANTSENA

The shooting of "Vasantsena", Atré Pictures' ambitious undertaking in double versions is proceeding apace under the direction of Jagirdar.

INDIAN INDUSTRIES IN WAR TIME

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Chairman of the National Planning Committee, in the course of a statement, says:

"The Eastern Group Conference still apparently thinks in terms of India chiefly supplying raw material and agricultural products and big industries concentrated in other countries. Probably the most remarkable instance is the Indian automobile industry. The reasons advanced are the most puerile imaginable. For years past efforts have been made by Indian industrialists to start a motor industry in India. At last everything was settled, contracts were made, capital was forthcoming and all that was necessary was the Government's consent. One would have thought that under the stress of war requirements, any Government would have welcomed the development. Not so the British Government in India.

It is stated they were influenced by vested interests of the American motor car industry, which does not want India to develop her own automobile industry. Now it appears that the American authorities are starting some kind of a motor plant somewhere in India. Objections previously raised as to the diversion of labour, etc., become now still more absurd."

AMBULANCE CAR OUT OF OLD BOTTLES

"What is the secret of the alchemy that has turned old bottles, tins and paper into this new Motor Ambulance?" asked Sir Hugh Dow, Governor of Sind, accepting this ambulance on behalf of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Association. "I don't know, but I know some of the ingredients—imagination, hard work, and infinite patience." The ambulance represents the sale proceeds of bottles, tins, waste paper, scrap-iron, etc., collected over a period of two-and-a-half months. The Karachi Scrap Collection Committee since their inauguration in May this year have realized over Rs. 9,000.

AMERICAN CHASSIS FOR INDIA

The first consignment of several hundred automobile chassis supplied by America under Lease-Lend was landed in India towards the end of December.

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

An important step forward has been made at the Aircraft Assembly Factory in South India where "Harlow" training machines and "Curtiss Hawk" fighters are being turned out. Until recently all component parts of these aircraft had to be imported, but it has now been found possible to produce almost everything in India except engines and instruments.

The development is regarded as of first importance in easing the problem of obtaining supplies and represents a distinct step forward in the establishment of an entirely self-sufficient aircraft production industry in India. In a large measure the credit, it is stated, is due to the Indian workmen employed at the Factory. For the American experts in charge of production are unanimous in praising the accuracy and skill of their work.

In addition to producing the "Harlow" and the "Curtis Hawk" planes, plans are well ahead for the production of American "Vultee" bombers.

U. P. HURRICANE SQUADRON'S EXPLOITS

The Hurricane Squadron, which has been chosen to commemorate the fund raised by the United Provinces, did great work as a fighter squadron in the Great War. Disbanded in 1919, it was re-formed in 1937, and shared in the great victory over the hordes of the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain in 1940. The Squadron claims to be the first in the Royal Air Force to destroy a hundred German aircraft in this war.

DELHI-KARACHI AIR SERVICE

The Government of India have announced that the Indian National Airways' services have been reorganised. Air services between Karachi, Lahore and Delhi have been discontinued, while the Delhi-Calcutta services will continue.

INDIAN AIR FORCE

Indian Air Force Volunteer Reserve's strength is now about eight times what it was in peace time. A training scheme was inaugurated in 1940 designed to turn out 300 pilots and 2,000 ground staff per year for two years.

MANUFACTURE OF PARACHUTES

The manufacture of parachutes and statichutes in India is making satisfactory progress.

Work on the production of parachute silk cloth from raw silk, reeled by the Kashmir Government from Iranian cocoons, has already started and orders for other textile components for parachutes are being placed. Experimental manufacture of cloth, cords, tapes and sewing thread from indigenous silk has also been carried out and, after thorough tests, as laid down in R. A. F. specifications for man-carrying parachutes and statichutes, a number of samples have been approved as being fully in accordance with requirements.

BICYCLES FOR THE ARMY

An indigenously assembled bicycle produced by a Bombay firm has recently been tested and found satisfactory. Certain parts were non-standard, but the firm has guaranteed to bring these up to the level of the Defence Services' requirements.

It may, therefore, be assumed that India will shortly be producing a complete bicycle to army standard with the exception of the free-wheel, chain, and hubs. These parts must be imported.

SHELL DRESSINGS

Shell dressings are manufactured in India. A new factory has been set up with a potential output of 80,000 a day. Among other new items manufactured in this country are: compressed dressings, sterilising outfits, field pattern oxygen outfits, thermometers, a wide and increasing range of glass and rubber products, ampoules for biological products, chemicals and substitutes.

INDIAN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

Bombs, mines and depth-charges are for the first time being produced in India. Field-guns of the latest type are also produced in the country. The ordnance factories have been completely modernised in accordance with a programme costing seven crores of rupees.

BOARD OF IRRIGATION

Reports on the research work carried out at the various centres were reviewed and the programme for 1942 was drawn up at the 12th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation held in Delhi recently. The Board considered the work done relating to the staunching of canals to prevent leakage as also the work done in connection with the meandering of rivers, design of channels in alluvium, the accuracy of different methods of taking discharges, and silt selective heads. As regards some channels taking off from larger ones drawing excessive silt, it was considered that this could be remedied by a suitable design of a silt selective head arranged to draw the correct proportion of silt.

AGRICULTURAL METHODS

In order to promote the knowledge of agricultural methods among young children, instructions have been issued by the Iranian Minister of Education to all village schools in Iran to arrange curriculum in such a manner as to give the child ample time and opportunity to attend to agricultural work. It is intended that students should work in fields together with their parents in afternoons when schools are closed, teachers have been ordered to inspect fields and to encourage students working there, special Readers are being prepared for rural children.

COTTON CROP IN U. S. A.

According to a cable recently received from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, the production of the cotton crop of the United States of America during the current season is now estimated at 11,020,000 bales of 500 lbs. each (or 18,775,000 bales of 400 lbs. each), as against 12,847,000 bales (or 16,059,000 bales of 400 lbs. each), the corresponding estimate of last year.

IMPERIAL BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Lall, Officiating High Commissioner for India, has been elected Chairman and Secretary of the Council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureau in succession to the late Doctor William Allen (Canada). Mr. J. A. Calder, representative Council of the Colonial Empire and Mandated Territories, was elected Vice-Chairman.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Compensation amounting to nearly Rs. 15,00,000 was paid to workmen in about 98,700 cases according to the Note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1939. The average sum paid during the year per case was Rs. 89 as against Rs. 40'0 in 1938.

Bihar, Bombay, Madras, the North-West Frontier Province, Orissa and the United Provinces reported increases both in the number of cases and in the amount of compensation paid over the figures of the previous year.

FREE RATIONS FOR LABOURERS

The question of making provision for supply of free rations to labourers by their employers during the period of air raids is now engaging the attention of the Government of Bengal.

Government think that, in addition to any penal legislation that may be provided to compel men to remain at their posts and provision of shelters in the way of slit trenches, etc., it will be helpful if employers of labour allowed rations, cooked or uncooked, free to their workers for the time they are engaged on work during the period of raids. In fact, during such time, outside supplies are likely to be disorganised, and it will not be advisable to let labour leave work and go out for food.

WAGES OF JUTE WORKERS

The Jute Trade Board has considered the request for a 10 per cent. increase in wages of the workers and awarded an advance of 2s. 6d. per week of 48 hours on the general minimum time rates and guaranteed time rates for all-time workers of both sexes, with consequential increase in overtime rates for time and piece workers. In view of the resolution of the Board to increase the rates of the time workers, it was agreed to record that an agreement would be arrived at between the employers' associations and the trade unions concerned for a similar increase of 2s. 6d. per week of 48 hours to the piece workers of both sexes,

INDIAN ARMY EXPANSION

Recruitment for the Army has been going on at a remarkable pace since the outbreak of war. The present rate is almost 50,000 a month. In the first eight months of the war 53,000 men were recruited. In May 1940, orders were issued for the enrolment of 100,000 more men to be armed and equipped as a modern field army. By November 1940, the enlistment of this number was substantially complete. The rate now was 20,000 men a month.

In 1941, a new programme of expansion was successfully launched and on March 23 it was possible to announce that the strength of our armies was well over the immediate goal of 500,000 men, excluding the substantial and growing expeditionary forces sent abroad.

SIR SIKANDAR HYAT KHAN

Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, Premier of the Punjab, who is in Iraq on a tour of inspection of Indian troops, visited units at Basra and was everywhere given an enthusiastic reception.

He addressed groups of troops, informally at tea parties, clubs and soldiers' messes, giving them reassuring news from their homeland and learning in return that they were happy and in the best fighting trim.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Two vacancies will arise on the Federal Public Service Commission owing to the resignation of Sir John Dain, and the expiry of the term of Dr. A. F. Rahman.

In the former vacancy, which will occur shortly, the Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. W. R. G. Smith, at present Commissioner of Police, Bombay; and in the latter vacancy, which will occur early in May, Lt.-Col. M. A. Rahman, I.M.S.

RANGOON RAID CASUALTIES

The latest information received by the Government of India from Burma gives the total number of casualties in air raids on Rangoon on December 23 and 25 as 1,102 killed, or subsequently died, and 1,050 injured. It is believed that in both categories the majority were Indians, but no separate figures are yet available.

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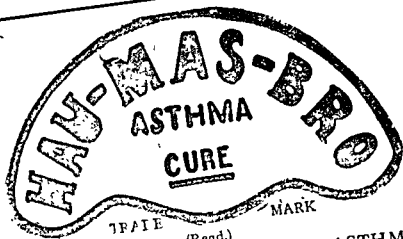
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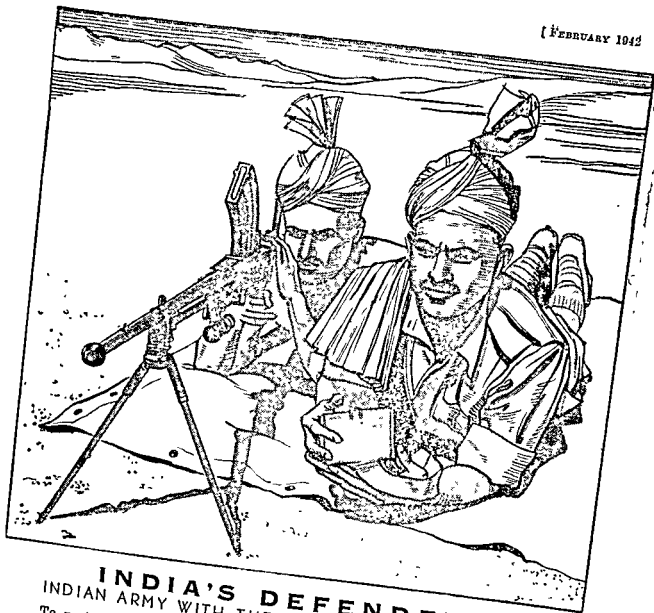
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[FEBRUARY 1942]



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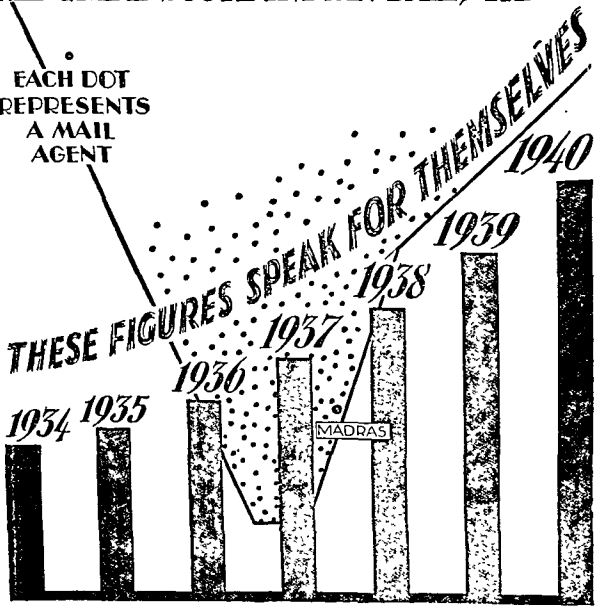


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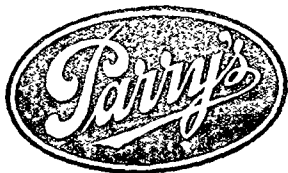
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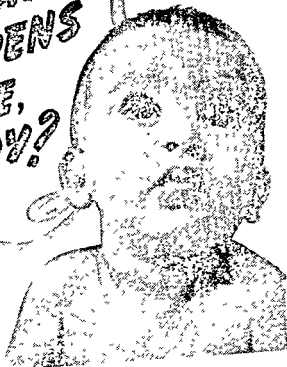
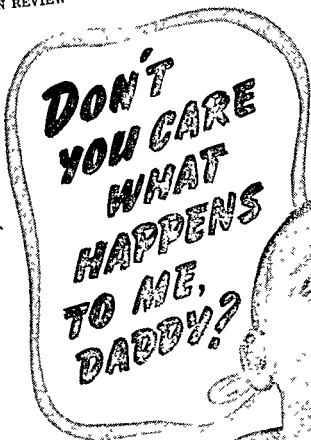
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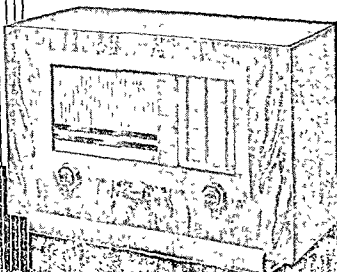
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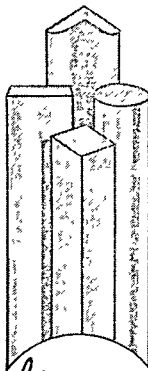
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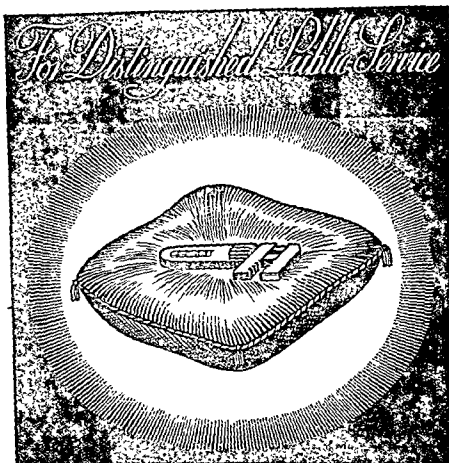
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